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Hussein in Kuwait to muster support

KING Hussein of Jordan arrived here yesterday on the first leg of a Gulf tour aimed at forging a united Arab stand against an expected flood of Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel.

Hussein, who will also visit Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, was also expected to seek more economic aid for Jordan.

He was welcomed at the airport by HH the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, and

they immediately held talks.

Hussein was expected to press for convening an emergency Arab summit "unprecedented in terms of seriousness and readiness to take concrete steps to confront the perils besetting the Arab nation," said an Arab diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The diplomat noted: "King Hussein is at pains to drive the warning home that the twin

grave issues, the influx of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and the recurrent Israeli contention to turn Jordan into a Palestinian homeland, can only be dealt with effectively through a unified Arab stand that has the backing of Arab political, military and economic potentials," he added.

This was the upshot of deliberations between Hussein and his partners in the Arab

Co-operation Council, presidents Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Saddam Hussein of Iraq and Ali Abdullah Saleh of North Yemen, at a summit in Amman Saturday.

The king, who met Saudi Arabia's King Fahd in Riyadh last week on these issues, was expected to seek to rally pressure on the United States, with which the conservative Gulf Arab states have close relations.

Diplomats said the aim is to sway Washing-

ton to join the Soviet Union at the UN Security Council to produce a resolution preventing Soviet immigrants to Israel settling in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Hussein has speculated a new wave of immigration could prompt Israel to force Palestinians from the occupied territories into his neighbouring kingdom.

The United States has expressed opposi-

tion to such settlements, but Arab diplomats expressed fears that President George Bush's administration might veto a UN resolution.

As Hussein arrived, the Amir received a message from Libyan leader Col Muammar Kaddafi, "who warned against the dangers of the influx of the Soviet Jews on the future of the Palestinian people and their national rights," Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed said.



With her son Pedro Joaquin behind her, Chamorro shouts to bystanders after voting at a Managua polling station. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ortega loses

'Democracy won': Bush applauds Chamorro

MANAGUA, Feb. 26, (Agencies): Opposition leader Violeta Barrios de Chamorro defeated President Daniel Ortega in a stunning rebuke to 10 years of leftist Sandinista rule in war-weary Nicaragua, election returns showed today.

Sunday's peaceful balloting — considered the freest election in Nicaraguan history — was closely watched by thousands of international observers and, with more than half of the vote in, "I want to tell all Nicaraguans and all the nations of the world, that the President of Nicaragua, and the government, will respect and accept the popular mandate," Ortega said.

The Sandinistas remain by far the largest single party and it was unclear how power would be transferred.

Defence Minister Humberto Ortega, the President's brother, has said that if Mrs Chamorro won, "she would still have to deal with me," and that the army might disobey orders it considered unsound.

Whether he commands that kind of loyalty remains to be seen.

Mrs Chamorro heads the United Nationalist Opposition, a fractious alliance of 14 parties ranging from far right to far left. UNO has said it will eliminate the draft and greatly reduce the size of the army, the largest in Central America.

Daniel Ortega had called Mrs Chamorro, the 60-year-old publisher of the opposition newspaper La Prensa, an instrument of US policy and had hoped to capitalise on Nicaraguan pride at standing up to the United States.

His government has battled a US-backed insurgency for 10 years while a US economic embargo has badly hurt the economy.

But voters rejected Ortega's one-party rule, which led to the economic decline the Sandinistas blamed on US hostility. Under the Sandinistas, the centrally planned economy was wracked by inflation and mismanagement.

"The Nicaraguan people have shown that they want to live in democracy, in peace and in freedom," Mrs Chamorro told more than 1,000 cheering supporters. If her victory is confirmed, she will take office for a six-year term on April 25.

President George Bush today applauded the victory of Mrs Chamorro and, beginning a major policy shift, signalled US willingness to lift economic sanctions against Nicaragua.

"In this year of remarkable political change, democracy won another victory yesterday. I am most pleased that there has been a free and fair election in Nicaragua and that the results are being accepted by both sides," he said.

In a statement read by spokesman Martin Fitzwater, Bush also called for national reconciliation in Nicaragua and an end to all military strife between the leftist Sandinista government.

Bush also sent Ortega a congratulatory message for permitting international observers to monitor the election.

US Secretary of State James Baker said the international community would insist "full civil and military power be transferred to the newly elected government."

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar called the elections a "great success for democracy" in Central America.

Mrs Chamorro was winning nearly 55 per cent.

Ortega, 44, stopped short of formally conceding, but said in a television appearance: "These numbers and these percentages form a tendency that cannot be ignored."

He said the precincts that had not yet reported held 50 per cent of the vote, but admitted a Sandinista victory would "break mathematical rules."

Kashmiris demand independence from India

— Details Page 2 —



Killed
A Philippine Navy man watches two comrades lying dead after suspected communist rebels shot them while they were guarding an oil depot in Manila. (Reuters wirephoto)



Unlucky
Hilary Foreich who is the centre of a bitter US custody battle is escorted to her grandparents' Christchurch motel by an unidentified man. Hilary's father Eric Foreich arrived in New Zealand and has vowed to get custody of his daughter. (Reuters wirephoto) (See Page 3)

Direct poll for Soviet chief

MOSCOW, Feb. 26, (Reuters): A draft law submitted to the Soviet Parliament provides for the introduction of a state president, elected for a five-year term by universal suffrage and secret ballot, a Moscow radio publication said today.

The Interfax publication said the bill — which must be approved by the full Parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies — would give the president wide powers including the right to issue decrees with the full force of law.

If approved, the law would give the Soviet Union an executive president for the first time in its history.

It was not immediately clear

Baker plan Shamir may accept it

Details Page 11

when the congress would convene to consider the bill as the smaller standing Parliament, the Supreme Soviet, refused to endorse a proposal by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev to call it this month.

Gorbachev, who is currently head of state as well as general secretary of the Communist Party, is virtually certain to stand for the post.

Last 11 Tankers to be deflagged

By Youssef Alawneh

ELEVEN Kuwaiti oil tankers which were registered in the United States during the Gulf war will shortly revert to Kuwaiti flags ending the US registration, highly informed sources have said.

The sources added that the legal procedure for the transfer has already been completed and this will relieve the US warships for accompanying and protecting the Kuwaiti tankers.

The Kuwaiti tankers were registered in USA in 1988 after several oil tankers and ships were attacked during the Gulf war.

One killed in Tehran march

ATHENS, Feb. 26, (UPI): A rebel Iranian radio station said today that at least one person was killed and several injured when revolutionary guards clashed with anti-government demonstrators in central Tehran.

"Radio Iran," a rightwing rebel radio station broadcasting from outside the country, said the clashes occurred yesterday.

Revolutionary Guards supporting Iran's ruling clerics fired their weapons, killing one person and injuring several, but the crowd continued to defy them.

Weather

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Ahmad: 19°C 66°F
Faiaka: 21°C 70°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 8°C 46°F
Ahmad: 11°C 52°F
Faiaka: 11°C 52°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 21°C 70°F
Ahmad: 20°C 68°F
Faiaka: 20°C 68°F
Minimum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 73 per cent
Ahmad: 44 per cent
Faiaka: 62 per cent

Storm lashes Europe: 16 die

Rain causes flooding

LONDON, Feb. 26, (Agencies): At least 16 people were killed and scores injured today as high winds lashed northwest Europe, which only three days ago was basking in unseasonably warm sunshine.

Worst hit was Britain where nine people died in a string of accidents caused by howling winds which also claimed four lives in Belgium, two in France and one in Ireland.

Instead of admiring wayside daffodils which bloomed early in Britain's warmest February for 30 years, motorists struggled to control their vehicles and watched for falling trees which killed three people on the roads in south and central England.

Three more road deaths in England were blamed on the weather, while three other fatal accidents occurred when a wall collapsed, a slate fell off a hotel roof and a chimney fell through a roof.

Gusts of up to 100 mph (160 kph) battered the southwest coast of England, and winds almost as strong were recorded as far away as West Germany's Rhineland. Weathermen said the storms could be as bad as those in January which took more than 80 lives in northwest Europe, 46 of them in Britain alone.

Torrential rain also fell in many places, flooding villages in southern England and northern

France. Helicopters were sent to rescue people from flooded homes after the highest tidal surge for 30 years breached sea wall defences in north Wales.

"It was like a raging river coming across the road. Beer barrels and a couple of old wrecked televisions came floating past," said garage workshop manager George Woolley in the Welsh seaside town of Towyn.

In Belgium, one policeman was killed and one seriously hurt when a tree fell on his patrol car in Brussels. A 30-year-old woman died in Damme, northern Belgium, when the tourist office building where she worked collapsed.

Two more people died when a house collapsed in the village of Molenbeek, northern Belgium, the Interior Ministry said.

In France, two young men were killed in separate incidents in Paris suburbs.

A 22-year-old man was crushed to death when a wall collapsed in the eastern suburb of Bagnoles, while in Choisy-le-Roi, just south of Paris, a 17-year-old man was killed when crushed by a slamming door.

In the Netherlands, rail lines were cut, bridges were closed, and flights suspended as a hurricane raged over the country, the second such storm in four weeks time. No fatalities were reported.

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Saudia jet makes emergency landing

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb. 26, (AP): A Saudi Arabian Airlines Boeing 747 jumbo jet caught fire and made an emergency landing today, but no one was injured, sources said.

None of the 159 passengers and crew were hurt, the national news agency Bernama reported, quoting a Civil Aviation Department (DCA) spokesman. He declined to give further information.

Extraditables want 'mechanism' to surrender

BOGOTA, Feb. 26, (Reuters): The group of Colombian drug lords known as the "extraditables" called on President Virgilio Barco today to draw up an "adequate mechanism" that would allow its members to surrender.

The group, widely identified with the chiefs of the Medellin cocaine cartel, said in a statement published in El Tiempo newspaper that it was also willing to draw up a complete national and international list of property used in drug trafficking.

The statement said the extraditables had proven their willingness for peace by suspending a violent anti-government campaign January 17.

"We hoped that the government through one or more persons or an adequate mechanism would implement the

process of our surrender," said the statement, addressed to a group of influential figures including three former presidents, a Roman Catholic cardinal and the head of Colombia's biggest leftist party.

"Through you we ask the President for it today, so that in this form Colombia can oversee the culmination of the process," it said.

The statement said the group's aim was "nothing else than to contribute to peace and to eliminate, in good portion, the traffic of cocaine from Colombia to other countries."

Barco's government has vowed not to negotiate with the drug lords and has said any response to their proposals must be constitutional.

Communists ambush soldiers; kill two near Cory's office

MANILA, Feb. 26, (AP): Communist guerrillas killed 12 government troops in ambushes in the northern Philippines and two others today near President Corason Aquino's office, authorities said.

The military said New People's Army rebels ambushed a constabulary convoy Saturday in Ifugao province, 240 kms (150 miles) north of Manila, killing 10 soldiers and government

militiamen.

In Quezon province south of Manila, the Philippine constabulary highway patrol group reported that one of its officers was kidnapped by about 20 guerrillas manning a highway checkpoint in Gumaca, 144 kms (89 miles) southeast of Manila yesterday.

Master Sgt Juan Armas, highway patrol team leader in the nearby town of Lucena, said Capt

Albert Reyes was taken by the rebels after he identified himself as a military officer.

In another incident Saturday, two more soldiers and two rebels were killed in a battle in Nueva Vizcaya province, 60 kms (40 miles) south of Ifugao, the military reported.

Urban-based communists were suspected in the deaths of two navy troopers guarding a government oil depot, police said.

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Tight security for India state polls

November trend forecast

NEW DELHI, Feb 26, (UPI): Authorities in eight states and a territory today boosted security on the eve of assembly polls, with police ordered to shoot troublemakers on sight in violence-prone Bihar, where blasts reportedly killed at least two bomb-makers.

More than 213 million people were eligible to cast ballots tomorrow for 21,265 candidates competing for 1,611 seats in Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Arunachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh states and in the territory of Pondicherry, a tiny former French colony on the southeastern coast.

All of the legislatures are controlled by the Congress (I) Party of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and experts believe the organisation was facing a major disaster only three months after its defeat in



Carnival time

More than 2,000 disguised figures in carnival participate in one of the oldest traditions in Shrovetide carnival yesterday preceding Ash Wednesday. The attraction at the "Rottweiler Narrensprung" is the jumping "Federhannes". (Reuter wirephoto)

Tigers' aim

Dissolve council

COLOMBO, Feb 26, (Kuna): The main aim of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was to get the north-east provincial council, controlled by the Eelam National Democratic Front (ENDF) and the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) dissolved. Doctor Anton Balasingham, one of the negotiators of the LTTE with Sri Lanka government, said today.

Balasingham further said the sixth amendment to the island's constitution passed in 1983, which makes compulsory for members of Parliament and provincial councillors to take an anti-separatist oath withdrawn.

All the members of the LTTE's politburo are now in eastern Batticaloa for an emergency session to plan a new strategy to be adopted on the LTTE demands made from the Sri Lankan government, LTTE sources said.

According to a leading Tamil politician in the north of the island, the Chief Minister of India's Tamil Nadu state, Muthuvel Karunanidhi has echoed the LTTE demand for the dissolution of the north-east provincial council thus sparking off a charge that Karunanidhi was partial towards the LTTE which has now made peace with the Sri Lankan government after waging a bloody separatist campaign for more than a decade.

Another northern-based political source said all other Tamil militant groups are against a dissolution of the north-east provincial council except the LTTE.

parliamentary elections that brought V.P. Singh's five-party National Front minority government to power.

Polling was to last for eight hours and begin in Arunachal Pradesh at 7 am (0130 GMT) and in the remaining constituencies at 8 am.

Ballot-counting was to begin Wednesday morning and trends were expected by late evening. Officials said final results were possible by Thursday evening.

In addition to the state contests, voters were also to select five members of the national Parliament, three of the races being by-elections. The remainder had been up for grabs in the November national polls, but were countermanded.

Ten assembly by-elections were also slated in states that held assembly contests in November.

Security preparations were heaviest in Bihar, with about 100,000 homeguards and village volunteers deployed in support of 58,000 paramilitary personnel, state home secretary Jiya Lal Arya told reporters in the capital of Patna, 530 miles (850 km) southeast of New Delhi.

Fearing violence due to especially competitive races, Bihar officials ordered police to shoot on sight anyone attempting to intimidate voters or rig polling booths, he said.

Arya said that in a pre-election crackdown over the past several days, police had detained 3,884 reputed criminals and seized 750 kilograms of explosives and 120 pistols and other firearms.

He said supporters of the state's ruling Congress (I) Party fought an election-eve clash with backers of the Janata Dal of Prime Minister Singh in the Muzaffarpur district. Two people were injured, he said.

The Press Trust of India said that two people who were manufacturing bombs in the Masrakh constituency died when several of the devices exploded prematurely, raising to at least 10 the number of election-related fatalities.

Bihar is India's poorest state and saw unprecedented violence during the Nov 22-26 parliamentary elections, accounting for about half of more than 150 poll-related deaths across the country.

Inexperience killed the cat

Nepalese protests fizzling out: politicians fail to stir villagers

KATHMANDU, Feb 26, (Reuter): Nepal's riot police have suppressed democracy protests in Kathmandu with an ease which highlights the poor Himalayan kingdom's inexperience of political dissent.

"The people are very shy", a communist activist admitted after police met little resistance in thwarting plans for mass demonstrations in the capital yesterday.

For the past week political parties, banned since 1960, have been trying to mount demonstrations and strikes to press Nepal's absolute monarch King Birendra to grant multi-party democracy.

But it is not easy in a country that was closed to the world until the early 1950s.

Most Nepalis live in villages still accessible only on foot. Kathmandu remains a village where government intelligence has little difficulty finding out what the opposition plans.

The political parties face a tough task in their attempts to update the widespread belief in the king's divine right to absolute rule.

Communist factions have been forced into pragmatic alliance with the Liberal Nepali Congress Party in the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD).

"I should think that for the communists it must be frustrat-

ing," one diplomat said today. "The opposition groups are absolutely riddled with informers."

"The masses are totally apathetic. There's not enough of a manufacturing base to enable development of trade unionism. Then if you get a demagogue, you go to stir up five families in one village and you've got to walk five days to stir up five families in another."

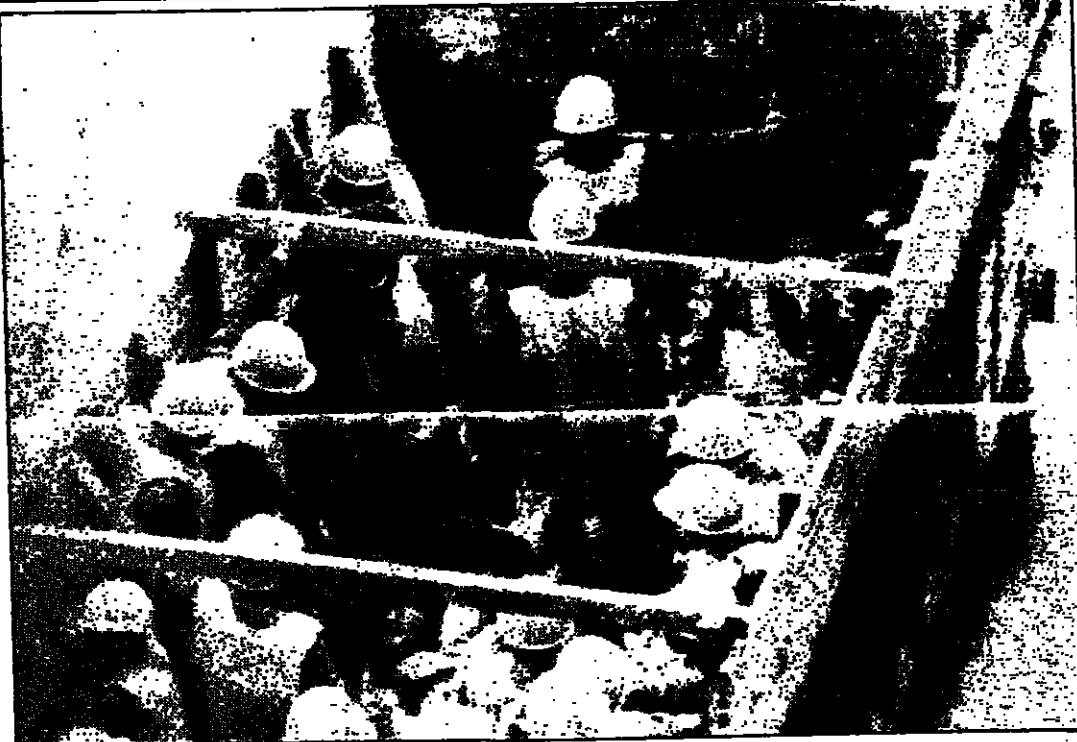
Today the government announced 12 people had died, including a policeman, in two days of clashes early last week between police and stone-throwing demonstrators.

But the confrontations were all outside Kathmandu, where the campaign was launched with little violence on February 18 by at least 10,000 people who took police by surprise to chant democracy slogans in a major thoroughfare.

A week later, plans for a repeat performance collapsed when riot police swarmed the tiny city's centre to arrest hundreds of youths and many of the middle-aged, middle-class professionals who voiced open frustration with the partyless electoral system.

Diplomats said most were held only briefly for questioning.

Most of the police were armed only with bamboo batons. But fears that they would use live ammunition — as they did in



Arrested pro-democracy demonstrators sit in a truck while Nepalese riot police guard them. (Reuter wirephoto)

other towns last week — deterred resistance from the would-be student radicals lurking in old Kathmandu's bazaars.

Their lack of organisation and confidence became apparent when three political leaders finally emerged into a side street full

of riot police. Waving black flags in mourning for the dead, the three marched about 10 yards (metres) before being arrested.

Hundreds of people, ordered off the streets and watching from rooftops and windows, failed to

join them. "We had frankly expected a much, much bigger show of strength to keep up the morale of the movement and to maintain psychological pressure on the government," a human rights activist said.

Sect clash in Lahore

ISLAMABAD, Feb 26, (Kuna): One person was killed and at least 12 others were injured when unidentified gunmen opened fire in a busy shopping area in Lahore last evening.

According to unofficial reports received from Lahore except the person who was shot dead, others were shoppers, including women, who were busy making purchases in the main bazaar of Islampura (also known as Krishan Nagar).

Eye-witnesses of the area said it appeared that the gunmen, riding Suzuki car with tinted glasses, killed the person they wanted to, a man named Mustaqeem belonging to Sunni community. Later one of the assailants, using Kalashnikov rifle, fired indiscriminately at the shoppers before entering the car and running away with other car occupants.

Islampura is a locality with mixed population of Shia and Sunni people but the Shia population there is substantial.

Vow to stamp out Sind terror

New cabinet sworn in

KARACHI, Feb 26, (Reuter): A new chief minister took office in Pakistan's troubled southern province of Sind today and vowed to stamp out ethnic violence.

Aftab Shaban Mirani, a distant relative of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, said in a statement that law and order would be his top priority. He replaces Qaim Ali Shah who resigned on Saturday after critics accused him of failing to take effective action to halt the violence.

Mirani blamed the clashes on "terrorists and saboteurs," adding: "We shall hunt for them and chase them till we comb out the last of them."

The new ministry comprises 14 ministers, eight of them from Shah ministry.

Provincial Governor Fakhruddin Hashmi administered the oath of office to the new cabinet members in a ceremony at the provincial assembly today.

Mirani, a mature and seasoned politician hails from Benazir's home town of Larkana.

The soft-spoken but administratively firm Mirani was elected unanimously as chief minister at the special session of the provincial assembly yesterday.

Mirani said he would aim for conciliation with the Mohajir National Movement (MQM), which represents Muslim immigrants from India and opposes the PPP.

Intermittent ethnic violence has claimed more than 1,250 lives in Sind since 1986.

The most recent clashes in Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city with a population of eight million, occurred on Feb 7 during a general strike called by the MQM.

Mirani appointed

Aftab Shaban Mirani was elected as new chief minister Feb 25 of Pakistan's troubled southern province of Sind.

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Di-spirited

A Kashmiri militant burns and destroys bottles of whiskey seized by the militant Muslim group in Srinagar Feb 24. (Reuter wirephoto)

Kashmiris march

25,000 protest

SRINAGAR, Feb 26, (UPI): About 25,000 shopkeepers, auto rickshaw drivers, public employees and other slogan-shouting protesters staged a fourth day of demonstrations for independence of Kashmir as top government leaders in New Delhi reviewed the ongoing crisis.

Five bomb explosions shook Srinagar, 400 miles (640 km) north of New Delhi, damaging a post office, a state animal husbandry office, two private companies and the unoccupied home of a former education minister, police said.

There were no injuries in the blasts, which apparently were set by Muslim separatists as part of an ongoing sabotage campaign.

Street demonstrations for independence for the Himalayan Kashmir region continued for a fourth consecutive day in Srinagar, with flags of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) — the most powerful of a number of underground Muslim separatist groups — hoisted atop hospitals and government buildings.

An estimated 25,000 protesters riding in buses and on foot braved cold and snow to stage processions throughout the day to the headquarters of a US military observers group that monitors the 1949 ceasefire line of the first Indo-Pakistan war.

Among the demonstrators were some 2,000 auto rickshaw drivers — their three-wheeled vehicles packed with three to five people each — and about 1,000 employees of the bus company of Jammu and Kashmir state.

Thousands of shopkeepers closed their businesses for part of the day and, with banners and signs waving, joined the marches to the UN headquarters, which were protected by about 50 armed paramilitary personnel.

Some 10,000 protesters who had travelled by bus from Anantnag, 30 miles (50 km) south of Srinagar, were stopped by security forces on the outskirts of the city. About a dozen protesters slipped past the blockade and later returned with a UN official so that the gathering could lodge a protest.

Meanwhile, the JKLF announced that medical supplies received from a French company would be distributed to those who have been injured in recent weeks by security force gunfire.

Another militant group, Almadad, warned employees at Srinagar's government-run radio station not to participate in un-Islamic programming. If they did, the group said in a statement, the employees would "face the consequences."

More than 100 people have died in an independence movement against Indian rule since security forces opened fire on protesters Jan 20. Most victims have been demonstrators shot by security personnel.

The government was forced to deploy tens of thousands of troops and police to keep the situation under control, but four recent days of massive protests apparently prompted Prime Minister V.P. Singh to summon state Governor Jagmohan for discussions in New Delhi.

Calcutta's 11th homeless victim

Stone man strikes again

CALCUTTA, India, Feb 26, (AP): The stone man, killer who preys homeless people sleeping on the sidewalks of India's largest city, struck again during the night, killing his 11th victim, a teen-age railroad porter, police said today.

The body of the latest victim, his head bashed in and a blood-stained rock lying nearby, was found by a police patrol shortly after midnight under a flyover near eastern Calcutta's Sealdah railroad station, officers said.

The area under the flyover houses shops which normally stay open past midnight, but an electrical failure — common in Calcutta — had blacked out street lights and shops. Police officers, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the victim was about 14 years old and had been working as an unlicensed coolie, or baggage porter, at the nearby train station. His name was not immediately

known. The stone man killed his first known victim on June 4. The toll reached seven in September. The last killing occurred Feb 20.

All of the victims were pavement dwellers, homeless people who sleep on the sidewalks of Calcutta, a teeming city with a population of 10 million.

The railroad porter, like the stone man's previous victims, was sleeping alone. Most of Calcutta's homeless people sleep in groups, especially since the killings began.

Estimates of the number of pavement sleepers range from the 65,000 suggested by city officials to as many as 1 million reported by Calcutta newspapers.

Police have arrested several people in sweeps through the city, but no one has been charged and the killings have continued.



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هنا ومن الراس

Heavy clouds ground Atlantis

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Feb 26. (Reuters): The US space shuttle Atlantis was grounded for the fifth time in as many days early today because of heavy cloud cover.

The shuttle was to have lifted off last Thursday with five military astronauts and a secret payload reported to be a spy satellite.

"There's no hope in sight that the weather will clear for us to launch this morning," said Lisa Malone, a spokeswoman for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa).

Nasa scheduled another launch attempt for Wednesday morning.

Atlantis will carry what space experts believe is a spy satellite designed to help verify Soviet compliance with international arms control treaties.

The shuttle was to have flown on Thursday morning, but was grounded for two days when its commander, Navy Captain John Creighton, was ill with a respiratory infection.

Creighton was cleared for flight on Friday, but a thunderstorm prevented technicians from fuelling the shuttle for a Saturday launch.

A computer malfunction forced Nasa to delay the launch on Sunday morning.

Space industry experts have reported that the satellite has digital imaging cameras and receivers that will take photographs and eavesdrop on communications at naval shipyards and missile launch sites.

The region to be covered by the satellite was said to include the Kola peninsula, home port to the Soviet North Sea fleet, and the Severodvinsk naval shipyard where nuclear submarines are built.

Space ideas that came to earth

BOSTON, Feb 26. (AP): The space programme has given the world much more than moon rocks and glimpses of Saturn's rings. The earthbound have Nasa to thank for lighter tennis rackets, more absorbent diapers and cordless power tools.

These and other spinoffs from space technology, part of a touring exhibit now at Boston's museum of science, are proof of how inventors and scientists, their eyes trained on the heavens, have improved day-to-day living for the average person.

The ingenuity that allows astronauts to work in space's extreme temperatures and weightlessness is also responsible for the digital graphics, the cordless vacuum and computer software for makeup application.

"It's the 'oh, gee whiz' effect, when you look at the dustbuster and you think it was first used to collect moon rocks and now we're having it collect our dust," said Roberta Gongwer.

project co-ordinator at the museum.

The display helps students understand "that space research helps our everyday lives" and shows that they, too, could become inventors, Gongwer said.

The eight-city exhibit, put together by the Fort Worth museum of science and history, still has stops in Philadelphia, St. Paul, Minnesota, and Los Angeles before it winds up in April 1991.

The shiny, metallic material known as mylar that covers most satellites and other space vehicles was invented to shield against radiation. On earth, sunbathers use it to promote tanning and marathoners wrap themselves in it for warmth after a run.

The composite materials developed for stronger, less cumbersome spacecraft gave the American consumer a lighter, more powerful tennis racket. Boots that Neil Armstrong wore

to take the first steps on the moon two decades ago were buoyed by a set of interlocking plastic coils that can be found today in millions of running shoes to cushion impact to the joints.

Freeze-dried foods like cheese omelettes and sliced peaches that saved astronauts space and weight now perform the same function for hikers.

Computer-enhanced photo maps helped Nasa choose a landing site for the first manned lunar mission. The software that assigns numbers to the contours of the surface of the moon now allows cosmetics companies to track the topography of a customer's face for facials and make-up application.

Scientists created a joystick to help astronauts in clumsy spacesuits drive the Apollo lunar rover over the moon's surface. Today, the paraplegics use the single-handed mechanism in cars for steering, accelerating and braking.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

HINGHAM, Massachusetts: The campaign posters, stickers and buttons might not have been authentic, but that did not stop hundreds of Kennedy buffs from swarming a store to buy props used in a television miniseries about the family.

The shoppers who came to the Building 19 store this week bought props from "The Kennedys of Massachusetts" network television miniseries that ended Wednesday night.

The thousands of items included an old-style newspaper stand, campaign paraphernalia bearing the name Kennedy, typewriters and desks.

"You name it. Whatever you saw in the movie, and most of it is there," said Brian Hickey, a salvage buyer for the Hingham-based chain. "There are hospital beds, luggage, clothing, old newspapers."

The shoppers apparently did not mind the store's disclaimer:

"We don't know if the reproductions are authentic... but we do know that they came from this production."

(AP)

KOKOMO, Indiana: Do you wonder where that auto hubcap disappeared to? You might want to start with George Huskins.

Huskins, 58, collects all those shiny wheel covers that fall by the roadside. He has 41,000 of them in more than 3,100 styles, from tri-spoke caps for a studebaker to the checker cabs and Indiana state police varieties.

Huskins, who has been hub-hunting for four years, estimates that 7,000 types have been manufactured since the first automobile rolled off an assembly line.

Today's versions are usually made of plastic to cut costs, and they tend to fall off, he said.

"They make them a lot cheaper now, especially the after-market (replacement) caps," Huskins said.

Huskins regularly ships hubcaps across the United States and Canada and handles orders from overseas.

His collection includes many hubcaps from the past — Dord, Whippet, Flash, Rio, Durant Edel, Avanti — and besides being a novelty, some are worth their weight.

His most expensive hubcap is a \$300 Auburn 12, from the limited-run cars manufactured in Auburn during the early part of the century. A spoked cap that was mounted over a spare tyre on the back of a 1934 Ford sells from \$200. (AP)



Merry-making

Two East German border guards and two young American girls have a bottle of champagne on top of the wall in East Berlin close to the Brandenburg Gate (background) recently. (Reuters wirephoto)

SPRINGFIELD, Missouri: Miss America Debbye Turner says fame has its drawbacks, but wearing a crown to fund-raising, auto shows, pep rallies and mall appearances generally has been a lot of fun.

"It was kind of fun that people would recognise me," she told a crowd of about 400 Wednesday at southwest Missouri state university. "I'd walk in a hotel lobby or down the street and people would recognise my face and stop me. I couldn't get used to it."

The Marimba-playing former Miss Missouri says she also has met US President George Bush, Vice-President Dan Quayle, actor Bill Cosby, her idol musician Lionel Hampton, Bruce Willis and Janet Jackson, to name just a few.

The disadvantages are a loss of privacy and the need to live out of a suitcase, she said. (AP)

Carnival samba begins in Rio

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb 26. (Reuters): Rio de Janeiro's marathon display for tropical glamour — the carnival samba parades — began last night with a cast of nearly 50,000 dancers.

The Rio carnival reached its climax last night and tonight with the top 16 samba schools parading through the purpose-built "Sambadrome".

Many of the dancers live in the slums, but have saved up amid Brazil's worst 20th century economic crisis to take part in the extravagant celebrations.

The first samba school to parade through the Sambadrome last night was Camucru, whose plumed dancers performed to a samba theme entitled "Did I vote for the right president?"

Next month, president-elect Fernando Collor de Mello will take office and try to slay the dragon of Brazil's inflation — 73 per cent in February alone.

Some carnival purists are speaking out against the emphasis given to the glittering, luxurious displays in Brazil's samba parades. The country's biggest street carnivals take place in the northeastern cities of Recife and Salvador.

Yesterday Journal do Brasil newspaper gave a full page to carnival connoisseur Joseph Dib, who made an appeal for less glitter and more art.

"The samba school is basically singing, dance and music. Today no one dances any more, the sambas get weaker and weaker and we won't even talk about the dancing," he said. The hold of gambling bosses on the samba schools has hurt creativity, Dib added.

Many foreign tourists, alarmed by the amount of violent crime in Rio, stayed away from the carnival this year.

"The publicity given to the violence in the city has made the number of foreigners drop," leading hotelier Luis Tadeu Raja Gabaglia de Toledo told the newspaper O Globo.

Rio is one of the world's most violent cities, with as many as 50 murders a weekend.

In Salvador, capital of Bahia, huge crowds dance to the infectious beat of the Lambada, the sensual Brazilian dance now enjoying success in Europe and the United States.



Foretich (left) shown arriving at Auckland airport, speaks to a reporter. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tug-of-love gagged

Father vows to regain Hilary

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Feb 26. (Reuters): American girl Hilary Foretich, 7, was taken to New Zealand today to win back his schoolgirl daughter, who is at the centre of a bitter custody fight with his ex-wife Elizabeth Morgan.

But as he arrived to reclaim seven-year-old Hilary Foretich, hidden for almost two years in the town of Christchurch, a local judge gagged the war of words between the parents, fought out before fascinated US media.

"I intend to see my daughter and I have every intention of bringing her back home," he told reporters after he arrived from the United States at Auckland airport.

But only hours later, he issued a statement saying he would make no further comment until his court battle in New Zealand was over.

Morgan spent more than two years in a US jail for refusing to reveal the child's whereabouts. She hid Hilary to keep Foretich from visiting their daughter, saying he had sexually abused her. Foretich vigorously denies the charges.

The battle moved to New Zealand last week when Foretich discovered Hilary was living with her maternal grandparents in a Christchurch motel.

Asked if Hilary had anything to fear from him, Foretich said: "That question doesn't even warrant an answer."

A New Zealand family court judge clamped down on wide comment on the case carried in the local media. He issued a terse statement reminding journalists of tough New Zealand laws which ban any comment on a family court case unless the court allows it.

"At this stage I direct that there be no release of information concerning this case," he said.

Family courts, which are closed to the public and media, aim to sort out domestic disputes such as the Foretich case.

Instead of flying on immediately to Christchurch, about 750 km (470 miles) south of Auckland, Foretich held four hours of talks with his local lawyers.

A statement issued through his solicitors afterwards contrasted sharply with the open war of words fought in the United States.

"Dr Foretich does not propose to make any further comment until after the proceedings currently before the New Zealand family court are disposed of," it said.

"Dr Foretich has been advised of the strict rules governing comment on court proceedings in New Zealand. He believes that media comment and speculation are prejudicial and not in the best interests of his daughter."

Hilary's grandfather, William Morgan, told New Zealand television today that Hilary wanted to commit suicide shortly after they first went into hiding but did not provide details after exchanging a glance with his wife, Antonia.

He said the girl told him yesterday she had dreamed that her father "is coming to get me" and that he told her it wasn't a dream.

Antonia Morgan said Hilary spoke with Elizabeth Morgan by telephone today for the first time in years.

"When she talked to her mother she broke down in tears," said Antonia Morgan.

The Morgans said Hilary now goes by the name Ellen Morgan. "She doesn't like to be called Hilary anymore," William Morgan said.

The intense news coverage generated by the case prompted Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer to warn hundreds of visiting US journalists to study and heed New Zealand's tough contempt-of-court rules, which mandate privacy.

The law calls for a fine and up to three months in prison for any journalists who makes public information about family court hearings that has not been released by the judge, who must act in the best interests of the child.

The strict law, which applies to foreign journalists, also holds parents liable if they release unauthorised information.



Tycoon Forbes' ashes to be flown to Fiji

Inscription on tombstone 'While alive, he lived'

NEW YORK, Feb 26. (Reuters): Publisher Malcolm Forbes, the flamboyant American millionaire who died on Saturday left instructions that his ashes be flown to his private island in Fiji and that his tombstone be inscribed, "While alive, he lived."

Forbes, 70, who set records in hot air balloons, rode motorcycles with film star Elizabeth Taylor, gave lavish parties and still had time to run

one of the world's most influential business magazines, died of a heart attack while napping at his New Jersey mansion on Saturday afternoon.

A private funeral was scheduled for today at an undisclosed site. Following cremation, the ashes were to be buried on the Forbes-owned island of Laucala in Fiji.

A public memorial service was scheduled for Thursday at St Bartholomew's Church in New York City.

a service sure to be packed with hundreds of celebrities, politicians and the fellow millionaires who saw Forbes as capitalism's greatest advocate.

One of those most shaken by the death was Taylor, the actress who rode double on Forbes' Harley-Davidson for many a motorcycle ride. "I feel like a great light has been turned off," Taylor said. "He was one of the best friends I ever had."

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger described Forbes as "the classical American — optimistic, generous, buoyant and lots of fun. We were very good friends and I will miss him."

Malcolm was one of the great magazine publishers, who single-handedly created a major, powerful magazine," said fellow publisher Rupert Murdoch.

His son, Malcolm Forbes Jr, speaking with his three brothers and his sister at a news conference in the lobby of the Forbes building in New York, said his father had survived so many close calls it was hard to believe he was dead.

The younger Forbes, who will succeed his father as editor-in-chief for Forbes magazine, recalled his father's wounds during World War Two, his motorcycle accidents, his free falls in balloons.

"He always said life was a risk, whether getting out of bed or getting up in a balloon. But we never believed it (death) would happen to him," said Forbes Jr, who has been deputy editor of the magazine since 1982.

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Drug war US wants Europe to hit harder

WASHINGTON, Feb 26, (Reuters): The United States, insisting that the war on drugs must be global, is pressing Europe to crack down more strenuously on money-laundering and the export of chemicals used to produce cocaine.

In American eyes, money-laundering and so-called "precursor chemicals" are two fronts on which the Europeans could fight harder — and should adopt the tactics used by Washington.

South America's multi-billion dollar cocaine conglomerates depend on huge quantities of chemicals made in the United States and Western Europe to convert coca leaf into cocaine base and finally cocaine powder.

The finished product creates literally mountains of money as the drug trade deals almost exclusively in cash. A million dollars in raised notes can weigh 45 kg (100 pounds) and that amount is not much in an industry estimated to generate up to \$50 billion in the US alone.

To make it more difficult for drug money to be converted into innocent-looking figures on a bank statement, the United States requires banks to report all cash deposits over \$10,000 — as well as all other "suspicious transactions."

To make it more difficult for the cocaine trade to buy chemicals by the tanker-load, legislation passed three months ago provides for the US chemical industry to report their deals with South American clients to the government.

According to US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) estimates, up to 70 per cent of the acetone, ether, potassium permanganate, methyl, ethyl, ketone and similar chemicals shipped by US companies to South America in the past ended up in clandestine cocaine laboratories.

US officials say the Chemical Diversion and Trafficking Act, passed by Congress in October, throttled the flood of US chemicals to the cocaine trade.

At a recent US Senate hearing on cocaine chemicals, West Germany, the Netherlands, Britain and France were mentioned as new sources.

DEA deputy assistant administrator Gene Haislip expressed Washington's displeasure with the Europeans in testimony before the Senate Committee on Foreign Commerce.

"I have consulted with several of the European governments... and there is a reluctance to impose controls over these chemicals," he said.

"We must persuade the Europeans... to impose controls similar to those which we have done. We must persuade them that it is in their best interest and that, if they fail to do so, they not only jeopardise themselves but ourselves as well."

According to US estimates, the cocaine industry in Colombia, Peru and Bolivia requires between 6,000 and 12,000 tonnes of chemicals a year. Most of them so far have come from US companies.

"It is a fact that major American corporations openly sabotage our anti-drug efforts by selling to the enemy," Senator Harry Reid told the Senate committee. "I am talking about the scandal of American corporations selling to foreign businesses associated with the drug trade."

However, spokesmen for US chemical companies insist that none of their products end up in the wrong hands.

US disengagement with European anti-drug efforts has been voiced more bluntly on the chemical front than in the money-laundering trenches, where Washington feels advances have been made. But even there, the US feels more could be done.

"The US position is that the mechanisms that we have implemented in this country for the control of drug money need to be implemented in the major economic nations of Europe," the DEA's top money-laundering expert, David Wilson, said in an interview.

US pressure, officials say, helped speed up the establishment last year of a money-laundering task force by the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations — the United States, West Germany, Japan, France, Britain, Italy and Canada.

After its second meeting in Paris in February, the task force said recommendations were under review for tighter banking regulations, standardised penal codes and greater co-operation between law enforcement agencies.

The proposals have to be approved by the G-7 governments and, according to European diplomats, some of the US measures that Washington would like the rest to adopt are still viewed with an element of scepticism.

US legislation on "dirty money" has raised a number of unresolved questions that range from the individual's right to privacy to national sovereignty. Some experts say tighter regulations could tempt some sort of global "big brother" to peep into every bank account.

The US model also points to problems of logistics that are yet to be solved.

Banks file more than seven million currency transaction reports a year for deposits of more than \$10,000. Officials say privately that the Internal Revenue Service, which handles the reports, is so swamped with paper that it can make only random checks.

What worries international bankers more than currency transaction reports, however, are US plans to regulate wire transfers, the nerve system of world trade.

Gibraltar money-laundering UK, Spain may agree on curbs

MADRID, Feb 26, (AP): Britain and Spain may agree on measures to prevent the laundering of drug money in Gibraltar, but they can do little to ensure the British colony's local government will implement them, diplomats say.

Ironically, it would be the second time in as many years that Spanish and British officials find themselves on the same side in a major public dispute with Gibraltar.

Spain has been trying to regain sovereignty over the rocky outcrop on its southern tip since being forced to cede it to Britain in 1713.

In the European Court of Justice, Gibraltar is challenging a European Community decision backed by both Spain and Britain to exclude the colony's tiny airport from a plan to liberalise air fares in the trade bloc.

Madrid lobbied for the exclusion after Gibraltar refused to allow Spain to set up customs controls at its airport in accordance with a December 1987 British-Spanish pact.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and his Spanish counterpart Francisco Fernandez Ordonez were to discuss money-

laundering and other issues in Madrid today in the sixth of a series of talks spawned by a 1984 Anglo-Spanish pact.

That agreement opened the way for the discussion of the colony's sovereignty for the first time.

Gibraltar's sole representative at the talks will be the British Royal Governor, Adm. Sir Derek Refell.

Gibraltarian Chief Minister Joe Bossano, who heads the local government responsible for everything but foreign affairs, refuses to participate in the talks because of his opposition to the 1984 pact.

The former Labour leader, elected in 1988 on the strength of his pro-independence stance, also rallied Gibraltarians to block the Anglo-Spanish airport agreement.

Bossano said he had no knowledge of any drug-related money among the \$3 billion deposited in 25 banks that have sprung up on the streets hugging the base of the colony's famous limestone rock.

"If you've got money to launder, you want to go to a centre handling \$100 billion rather than \$3 billion," he said in a telephone interview. "It's much easier to hide."

Bossano said the laws that set up Gibraltar as an offshore financial centre require banks to report any suspicious deposits.

But Spanish Foreign Ministry sources said Fernandez Ordonez would present Hurd with evidence of money-laundering in Gibraltar at the meeting, where the agenda also was to include the airport agreement and the sovereignty question.

Health Minister Julian Garcia Vargas made thinly veiled references to Gibraltar at the UN special session on drugs Thursday, where he urged countries to crack down on offshore banking centres under their control.

Vargas then told reporters that Spain would "soon reach an agreement with Britain" to apply to Gibraltar a 1989 anti-drug agreement that authorises judges in either country to freeze resources of suspected traffickers.

A British source, who commented that "there is always some of that money" in an offshore centre, said an agreement was possible, although he admitted Britain had "not a lot" of leverage in Gibraltar's internal affairs.



Panamanian children play inside the refugee camp in Albrook. (Reuterswirephoto)

Mexican pot yield tenfold

WASHINGTON, Feb 26, (AP): The United States confirmed yesterday that it has determined marijuana production in Mexico is much higher than it previously estimated.

The Los Angeles Times yesterday reported new US figures, to be released this week, concluded Mexico produces 10 times more marijuana than previously believed.

The newspaper said the official US estimate derived from CIA spy satellite photographs — concluded that Mexico produced 47,500 metric tonnes of marijuana in 1989. In 1988, the US estimated Mexico's production at 4,750 metric tons.

By contrast, estimates for Colombian marijuana production went up to 2,810 metric tons for 1989, a slight increase from the 2,740 metric tons reported for 1988. In the United States, production for 1989 was estimated at 5,500 metric tons, with 4,600 metric tons for 1988.

Katherine Shaw, spokeswoman for the State Department's international narcotics section said the agency would release an annual report on foreign narcotic production and anti-drug efforts later this week.

"This is not a tenfold increase in one year," Shaw said of estimates on Mexican marijuana production. "This is a revised estimate for 1989. There's a high probability things were much higher than we thought for a long time."

Shaw said the estimates for the previous few years were relatively low and the new figure for 1989 is based on new methodology. The figure for 1988 she said was "unimpeachable."

"It's just been much higher than we've thought and this year we can prove it."

US officials have long suspected Mexico was underestimating its marijuana production figures. The US figures are expected to be released Thursday, the Times said.

Shaw would not confirm the figure reported by the Times.

An administration official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the number was probable, and noted that it reflected marijuana production after eradication efforts.

Panama invasion aftermath Still homeless

PANAMA CITY, Feb 26, (Reuters): A photograph of a fire-gutted building with the blackened ruins of General Manuel Noriega's headquarters in the background is all Rigoberto Nunez has left to remind him of his home.

Nunez, his parents and three brothers ran for their lives on the night of the US invasion that overthrew Noriega and devastated the poverty-stricken El Chorrillo area where his headquarters stood.

Nearly two months later, they and some 2,000 other former residents of El Chorrillo are living in a huge hangar on the edge of a US Air Force base. Crowded into small wooden cubicles, they are surviving on two meals a day provided by the US government.

Another 850 displaced persons are living nearby in more than 40 tents.

"We are hoping things are going to change," said Nunez, who is 22 years old and unemployed.

The refugee camp is intended as a temporary solution by US and Panamanian authorities while permanent housing is found or built.

In the meantime, many of the social and economic problems that plagued El Chorrillo, one of the most crime-ridden areas of Panama City, can now be found at the camp.

Unemployment there is close to 70 per cent, according to officials and Nunez and other residents complain of drug dealing and violence.

Carlos Gordon, a 36-year-old father of five, had a litany of complaints ranging from drug use to bad food to arrogance on the part of Panamanian guards, members of the new police force.

"The most serious problem is drugs, then the food," said Gordon, who, like most other refugees interviewed, said he lost everything he owned in the invasion.

He said refugees were smuggling marijuana and cocaine into the camp and fights between refugees broke out several times a day.

Teresita Yaniz de Arias, the wife of first Vice-President Ricardo Arias Calderon and a co-ordinator of the camp, said in an

interview that such problems should come as no surprise.

"This was a high-density neighbourhood with a very high rate of crime" she said. "These people didn't change overnight. They brought their own problems — those they already had plus those they acquired from losing their houses."

Paul Bell, an official of the US Agency for International Development, which is funding the camp, said about 100 people had been thrown out for violating the rules.

He said the reasons ranged from drug use to lighting cooking fires in the hangar's 500-odd wooden cubicles. But he played down the severity of the problems.

"The great thing that has happened is that the percentage of crime, the percentage of interpersonal problems, is much less than it was in El Chorrillo," he said. "I expected it to be much worse than it is."

Despite the trauma of the invasion and the displacement that followed, both the refugees and the Panamanian and US officials who operate the camp have tried to establish some semblance of normality.

Some enterprising refugees have set up small businesses, such as laundering and ironing clothes, cutting hair, and opening small food stands just outside the entrance.

A school has been established for some 125 children between the ages of two and five.

For those who don't want to eat meals brought in by a local restaurant, a small shed has been set up with stoves.

Officials said there are several schemes in various stages of development for the refugees to move into permanent housing.

Earlier this month, the US and Panamanian governments signed an accord under which the United States will provide \$2.5 million to restore an apartment block in El Chorrillo damaged in the invasion.

About 450 families are expected to be able to move in by May.

Another project would provide US funds for refugees to buy their own homes in areas around Panama City. A US official said he expected it to begin allocating money in a matter of weeks.

World alarm over population bomb

Kuwait, Saudis poor in control

WASHINGTON, Feb 26, (AP): Unless birth control becomes available to everybody by the end of the decade, the number of people on this already overcrowded planet will double before a baby born today reaches middle age, according to a study released yesterday.

"This is a preventable disaster," said Sharon Camp, vice-president of the private Population Crisis Committee, a Washington-based advocacy group that released the report.

"We have what it would take — the financial resources and the know-how — to solve the problem, and to do so in our children's lifetime. But we have to act immediately. We cannot dither away another decade," she said.

In a list released by the group includes Kuwait among the countries rated poor and Saudi Arabia among very poor in efforts to control population.

There are about 5.3 billion people in the world, a figure that the United Nations says could rise to 14 billion before stabilising in the next century. The committee said today's population could double in 39 years and reach 27 billion by the end of the 21st century if present birth and death rates continued unchanged.

Stopping population growth at about 9 billion to 10 billion people would require use of contraceptives by some 75 per cent of couples, the study estimates. But to accomplish that the products would have to be available to everyone by the end of this century so the average family size could fall to about two children per couple early in the 21st century.

The report goes on to estimate the cost of such an effort — \$10.5 billion per year by the year 2000. Currently \$3.2 billion is spent on family planning in developing countries, where most population growth is taking place.

To finance this effort the report calls for increased aid from industrial nations, including \$1.2 billion from the United States, \$4 billion from other developed nations. \$1 billion from Development banks, \$500 million from private philanthropists and \$1 billion from consumers of family planning services.

"Universal family planning is a bargain compared to the costs of delaying world population stabilisation," Camp said.

The analysis found 29 countries, including the United States, Japan and most of Europe, well on the way to ending population growth.

In addition, a dozen countries were making "good" progress, the report said. These included Argentina, Poland, Israel, Turkey and Thailand.

But 18 nations were rated poor and 45 as very poor in encouraging birth control.

To stabilise global population at about 9.1 billion people by 2050, "World-wide birth control use must grow from about 50 to 75 per cent of couples, and average family size must decrease from about four to two children," said PCC vice-president Camp.

"Universal family planning is a bargain compared to the costs of delaying world population stabilisation — greater environmental damage, stagnant third world economies, political instability and intolerable amounts of human suffering," Camp said.

If governments, individuals and other interested groups begin working now to achieve global population stability, it will still be 20 years before a



Nicaraguans abroad protest

A member of the Nicaraguan community living in the US casts a vote in a symbolic ballot box in front of the Nicaraguan embassy in Washington on Feb 25 as supporters of President Daniel Ortega stage a rally. The symbolic voting was to protest the fact that Nicaraguans living abroad will not be permitted to vote in their presidential elections. (Reuters wirephoto)

tapering off of population growth becomes evident, Camp cautioned in an interview.

The committee said population stability will cost about \$10.5 billion a year to achieve beginning by the year 2000.

The estimate assumes an average cost of \$16 to provide family planning for one couple living in a developing nation, where most current population growth is occurring.

About \$3.2 billion a year is now spent on family planning in developing countries, the group said.

Here is a country-by-country rundown of the population crisis

committee's rankings of global population control efforts.

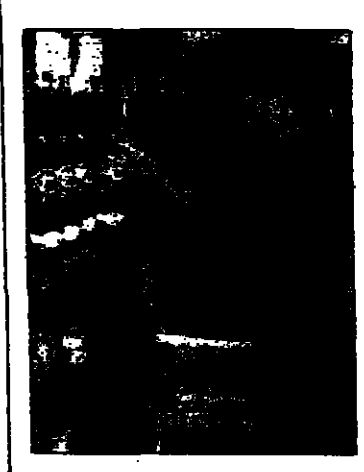
Excellent:

Czechoslovakia, United Kingdom, Belgium, Finland, France, West Germany, Italy, Sweden, Taiwan, Bulgaria, South Korea, United States, Singapore, Canada, Hungary.

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Poland, Argentina, China, Israel, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Thailand, Chile, Brazil, Colombia, Turkey and Sri Lanka.

With new fizz Perrier to be back



Perrier bottles being removed from shelves of a London store.

PARIS, Feb 26, (Reuters): Perrier will relaunch its sparkling mineral water globally with new labels showing the contents were bottled after a contamination scare 10 days ago which forced a massive withdrawal of stock, a spokeswoman said today.

Source: Perrier Sa said in a statement it had so far accounted for 90 per cent of its worldwide stock of round 160 million bottles which it ordered withdrawn from store shelves after the contamination was detected.

Company chairman Gustave Leven announced the withdrawal after minute traces of benzene, a toxic solvent which is suspected as a cause of cancer, were detected in the water in several countries.

A spokeswoman told Reuters the new stocks would carry a label saying "new production," but that the familiar pear-shaped green bottles would otherwise remain unchanged.

Perrier will announce this week how the new stocks are to be distributed.

Low-tech combat jet built

MOJAVE, California, Feb 26, (AP): Unconventional airplane designer Burt Rutan, whose Voyager flew around the world without refuelling, has built a new combat jet that flies in the face of the high-tech, high-cost aviation design ethic.

The first test model of the new plane, named Ares, will be rolled out today at Rutan's Scaled Composites Inc. at Mojave airport in the California high desert.

Rutan's Scaled Composites developed the jet for about \$2 million, a fraction of the normal cost of developing a military plane.

Designed as a light attack aircraft, the twin-tailed Ares is constructed of composite materials and powered by a single turbofan engine.

Composites, such as graphite and epoxy, offer strength without the weight of traditional aviation metals.

The most distinctive outward feature is the Rutan specialty, a Canard, a small wing forward of the main wing that increases stability.

Ares, an acronym for Agile, Responsive, Effective Support, also is the name of the Greek god of war.

The jet was designed to be armed with a 25mm gun and serve as a primary role in close air support and against helicopters. It could also be armed with air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles. A two-seat version is envisioned for forward air control and training missions.

Ares is also suggested for border patrol and reconnaissance duties as well as drug interdiction missions.

Overseas sales are the most likely marketing option. The US Air Force has its sights on high-performance, high-capability jets like the F-16 and the developing Stealth aircraft technology.

Relief, grumbling and delight over smoke-free American flights

NEW YORK, Feb 26, (AP): A smoking ban on virtually all domestic US flights took effect Sunday amid both relief and grumbling, and the phrase "smoking or non-smoking" all but disappeared from the lips of ticket agents.

"The plane starts to go down, I'm lighting one up," said Dave Noth of New York City, a traveller at Laganardia airport.

The federal ban, in force since

1988 on flights of less than two hours now applies to 99.8 per cent of domestic flights — the only exception being flights to Alaska and Hawaii of more than six hours. Overseas flights are not affected.

"It's wonderful. It's for the health of everyone," said Eastern Airlines flight attendant Nancy Robertson. "I think there are more pleased people than not. All the passengers tell me about

it."

Michael Marnett, an Eastern ticket agent in Miami, said the elimination of smoking and non-smoking sections made his life a bit easier. "Now we just issue seats," he said.

Supporters of the ban say separate smoking sections do not adequately shield non-smoking passengers and crew members from cigarette smoke. Critics argue that smokers' rights are

being trampled on.

"I don't think it's fair," said Gail Fiore of Huntington, New York, as she arrived at Laganardia. "I pay the same fare as a non-smoker and there should be a section for it. They're giving all the non-smokers all the rights and taking away all of ours."

Other smokers took a more resigned approach, even if nicotine withdrawal pangs are likely to bring new meaning to

the term white-knuckle flying.

"I don't care for it, but that's the way it goes. I'll just take some chewing tobacco, which makes the stewardesses mad. It's pretty disgusting, but it's something to do," said Rich Meadows of Ridgecrest, California, as he awaited a Chicago-bound flight at Los Angeles international airport.

Dan Lauria, a spokesman for the Tobacco Institute, a lobbying group, said last week that he had

fielded many calls from "miserable" smokers.

"We're telling the people the law is the law," he said. "We're telling people not to smoke in the bathroom. It's dangerous to the plane."

Longtime smoker Joanne Sharples of Omaha, Nebraska, arriving in Miami, said she managed not to light up during the flight. "After about three hours you get those anxiety pangs. But

I've gone eight hours," she said.

Mrs Sharples, who said she has tried four times to quit smoking and plans to try again, said she understands non-smokers' desire to breathe clean air.

"I wish they would do the same thing for women who wear an abundance of perfume," she said. "I can understand certainly a smoke-free America, a drug-free America and a perfume-free America."

NEWS IN BRIEF

America

Kamp going to change California: Democratic California Attorney General John Van de Kamp formally launched his campaign for governor in rival Dianne Feinstein's political backyard with a scathing attack on her record as mayor of San Francisco.

Van de Kamp began with a rally Sunday at the mission high school boys' gymnasium, in the heart of the city where Feinstein served nine years as mayor, and ripped into Feinstein's fiscal management and her record on civil rights, insurance, the environment and women's issues.

Van de Kamp describing himself as a candidate who "is going to change California" with environmental, political ethics and drug reforms.

A spokesman for Feinstein called Van de Kamp's attack a sign of desperation in the wake of the mayor's recent poll on the June 5 democratic primary, in which the former mayor pulled ahead of the attorney general. (AP)

Escalante threatening to quit: Jaime Escalante, the inspiring inner-city mathematics teacher whose story was told in the 1988 movie "Stand and Deliver," is threatening to quit. It was reported in Los Angeles.

He cited a spate of letters from parents saying their children wanted to drop his advanced mathematics classes, sometimes in favour of sports.

The Bolivian-born teacher said Wednesday such requests "hurt me more than anything else" and that parents "don't see education as the way to succeed in this country."

Escalante, who gained national attention for success in teaching college-level calculus to Hispanic youths, said he also has problems with jealous colleagues, anonymous threats and a lack of school district support.

Superintendent Leonard Britton said he had ordered an inquiry. (AP)

Plans to chop down ginkgo tree: A historic ginkgo tree, believed planted 136 years ago by the founder of Hampton Illinois attracts admirers from all over.

But its owner says the tree is a nuisance and should be chopped down.

"The tree is smelly, messy and very brittle, making it a hazard to the children who are continually climbing it," said the owner, Gillespie. "Besides, I am the one responsible for maintaining it, and it is quite a job."

Mayor Scott Newberg said a National Society of Ginkgo Tree Admirers frequently has its annual meeting in here because of the 100-foot (30.5-metre) tree.

Gillespie is aware of the tree's historic value and says he has wrestled with his conscience for years before deciding the "rational thing to do" is cut it down. (AP)

Dyke rebuilt to keep oil out: Some 150 workers on Sunday night rebuilt a sand dyke which had collapsed and allowed oil from the tanker American Trader to seep into a sanctuary for rare birds and other wildlife.

The temporary dyke collapsed under a pounding by six-foot (two-metre) waves earlier on Sunday and British Petroleum, which owns the Alaska crude oil, sent in work teams.

Gary Gorman, director of the Huntington beach wetlands conservatory, said he saw three birds with oil stains but they were able to fly away.

The half-mile (one km) marshland sanctuary contains members of endangered species, such as California brown pelicans and robin-sized California least terns.

Oil spill: A spill of 400,000 gallons (1.5 million litres) of oil from the tanker off February 7, Coast Guard officials said, one of the vessel's anchors, apparently swung into the side of the hull and made two holes. (Reuters)

Nazi-hunting unit: The Justice Department is weighing whether to farm out to private business the work of government historians who furnish research for the agency's special Nazi-Hunting unit.

The proposal is being studied as part of the federal government's effort to save money by "privatising" certain functions performed by government workers. But it has caused alarm in some circles that the work of the unit — the office of special investigations — will be undermined.

An official of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, the leading research centre on the mass extermination of Jews before and during World War II, criticised the idea, saying it comes at a time when changes in Eastern Europe will give unprecedented access to Nazi records.

"It is absolutely beyond belief that a diminution of the work of OSI would be considered at this point," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of Los Angeles-based centre. (AP)

US report full of 'whopping lies': North Korea said Sunday that a US State Department report accusing it of violating human rights is full of slander and "whopping lies."

"The US imperialists are exploiting every means and method possible to impair the high international prestige of (North Korea) and block world-wide support and sympathy for its unique socialist system," said a commentary in the official Workers (Communist) Party newspaper Rodong Sinmun.

The commentary was broadcast in part by Pyongyang's Korean Central News Agency and monitored in Tokyo. (AP)

Music makes chickens lay more: Folk music has turned 30,000 average chickens into some of the happiest, and productive, hens in China.

When they listen to Chinese folk music, the hens bob their heads, shake their tail feathers, and lay more eggs, the Beijing-owned China News Service (CNS) said on Monday. (Reuters)



Hashish haul

Dutch police spokesman Wim de Rooij (right) and colleague Ron Boeke display blocks of hashish after a shipment with a street value of \$240m was seized near Utrecht on Feb 25. The 45-tonne record haul was found in two open containers. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bristol's first Black mayor

BRISTOL, England, Feb 26. (AP): Councilman Jim Williams has been chosen as the first black Lord Mayor of Bristol, the southwest England port city which grew rich on the 18th century slave trade.

Williams, 54, was chosen for mayor by his Labour Party colleagues on the city council, they said yesterday.

Williams was born in Jamaica, to which British slave ships transported Africans to work on the sugar plantations.

He has lived in Bristol for 30 years and now runs a pub as well as being a magistrate. He formerly worked as a ticket collector on the city's buses.

Fauvist collection on sale: Counting on the growing sophistication of Japanese art buyers to survive the bidding, a French auctioneer will stage a simultaneous auction in Paris and Tokyo of a collection of unconventional Fauvist paintings, the sponsors said Saturday.

On March 25, art buyers in both Paris and Tokyo will be connected via satellite to bid on the 53-work Bourdon collection valued at \$70 to \$80 million, said Guy Loudmer, France's No. 1 auctioneer.

Though it will be the sixth such linkage between Loudmer's Auction House and Tokyo's Fuji Television Gallery Co. Loudmer radiated special enthusiasm for this auction because of the fitness of the collection for sale. (AP)

Duarte buried with honours: Tens of thousands of people turned out to pay respects to former Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte, who was buried Sunday with state honours and praise for his contributions to Central American democracy.

Duarte, a founder and leader of the Salvadoran Christian Democratic Party, died Friday at his San Salvador home after a long battle with cancer. He was 64.

US Vice-President Dan Quayle, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo, and former Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo attended the Roman Catholic mass offered by the bishops of El Salvador. (AP)

Kidnapped Americans treated well: Two American hostages freed on Saturday after being held for more than a week by leftist rebels protesting against US President George Bush's recent visit to Colombia said they were treated well.

In radio interviews broadcast on Sunday in Bogota, James Arthur Donnelly, 62, an industrialist, and school librarian David Leslie Kent, 40, said the guerrillas told them they were being used as instruments to protest against US intervention in Latin America.

"My life was not in danger. They (the rebels) told me that I was a symbol and that they distinguished between the North American people and the government of my country," Kent said in his interview with Colombia's RCN radio.

Donnelly told Reuters by telephone that he was also treated well. (Reuters)

Raid on wedding reception, 6 dead: A group of armed men stormed a wedding reception in a rural village Sunday and gunned down 11 people, killing six of them and wounding five, police said in Monteria, Colombia.

Police officials said several unidentified men carrying weapons of various calibres raided the property of Matias Rivas in the village of Moravia outside Monteria, 325 miles (525 km) northeast of Bogota, during a party for his daughter's wedding.

The gunmen ordered the partygoers to lie on the floor then opened fire, police said.

Five people were wounded and taken to local hospitals, including an 8-year-old boy who was in serious condition, officials said. (UPI)

Horse trading over cabinet

Tokyo stock, currency market plunges

TOKYO, Feb 26. (Reuters): As Tokyo's stock and currency markets plummeted today, ruling party power-brokers manoeuvred behind the scenes to capture cabinet posts in a new post-election government.

Japanese media reports said Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who won an unexpectedly strong majority in elections on Feb 18, was resisting demands for politicians tainted by bribery scandals to be named to the cabinet.

Kyodo News Service said Kaifu spent most of today in conference with the leaders of the five main factions in the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) trying to reach a compromise on who would make up the cabinet.

LDP Secretary-General Ichiro Ozawa met Kaifu early in the day and told reporters afterwards that the prime minister had not made a final decision on the line-up.

Kaifu has to announce the new cabinet tomorrow after parliament reconvenes him in office.

It was left to Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and senior bureaucrats to field questions about the plunging stock market, where the key Nikkei index fell 1,569.10 points or 4.50 per cent to 33,321.87, and the weakening yen, which sank more than 1-1/2 yen against the dollar to close at 148.65.

Hashimoto, tipped by the Japanese media to keep his post in the new government, told reporters he would keep a close watch on the stock market but saw little panic selling.

Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno told Reuters in an interview: "I don't think it could trigger a stock market crash worldwide."

The Foreign Ministry said there was no power vacuum because outgoing cabinet members retained their posts until the new government was announced.

"It's not what you would call an emergency situation," a spokesman



Kaifu trying to reach a compromise. (Reuters wirephoto)

said. Japanese media reports said two of the LDP's factions were causing Kaifu particular problems — those of former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, who has made little secret of his ambition to succeed Kaifu, and former Finance Minister Michio Watanabe.

The reports said Kaifu opposed cabinet seats for former Education Minister Yoshitomo Mori, a senior member of the Abe faction implicated in the Recruit bribery scandal, and LDP Deputy Secretary-General Koko Sato, a senior Watanabe faction member who was given a suspended sentence for his role in the

Lockheed bribery affair. Political commentator Hisayuki Miyake said: "Kaifu is trying to form a powerful but clean cabinet. So he is resisting the demand from the two factions."

He added that for Abe and Watanabe, "it is indispensable to get Mori and Sato in the new cabinet. If Abe and Watanabe fail to do this, they may not be able to achieve their ambitions."

Japanese newspapers reported that Kaifu had suffered a different problem with former Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru — he had declined an invitation to join the cabinet.

Kanemaru is chairman of the largest LDP faction, led by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita. Political analysts said Kaifu had wanted Kanemaru in the cabinet to limit his freedom of action and to add weight to the government.

The one minister tipped by the media to keep his post, apart from Finance Minister Hashimoto, was Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama.

As the wrangling intensified, the government officially announced today that Kaifu would travel to the United States for talks with President George Bush on March 2-3, well ahead of a trip originally forecast for late April.

Japan critic leaves

WASHINGTON, Feb 26. (UPI): Kevin Kearns, a Foreign Service officer who publicly opposed US policy toward Japan, resigned this week after superiors criticised his public comments about Japan and its supporters within the State Department.

Kearns, 42, who has been in the foreign service for 13 years and served in Japan from 1986 to 1988, resigned after he was strongly criticised by Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger and other senior officials for publishing "negative" articles about the US-Japan relationship.

"Nobody threatened me and my leaving is not directly concerned with the issue," Kearns said.

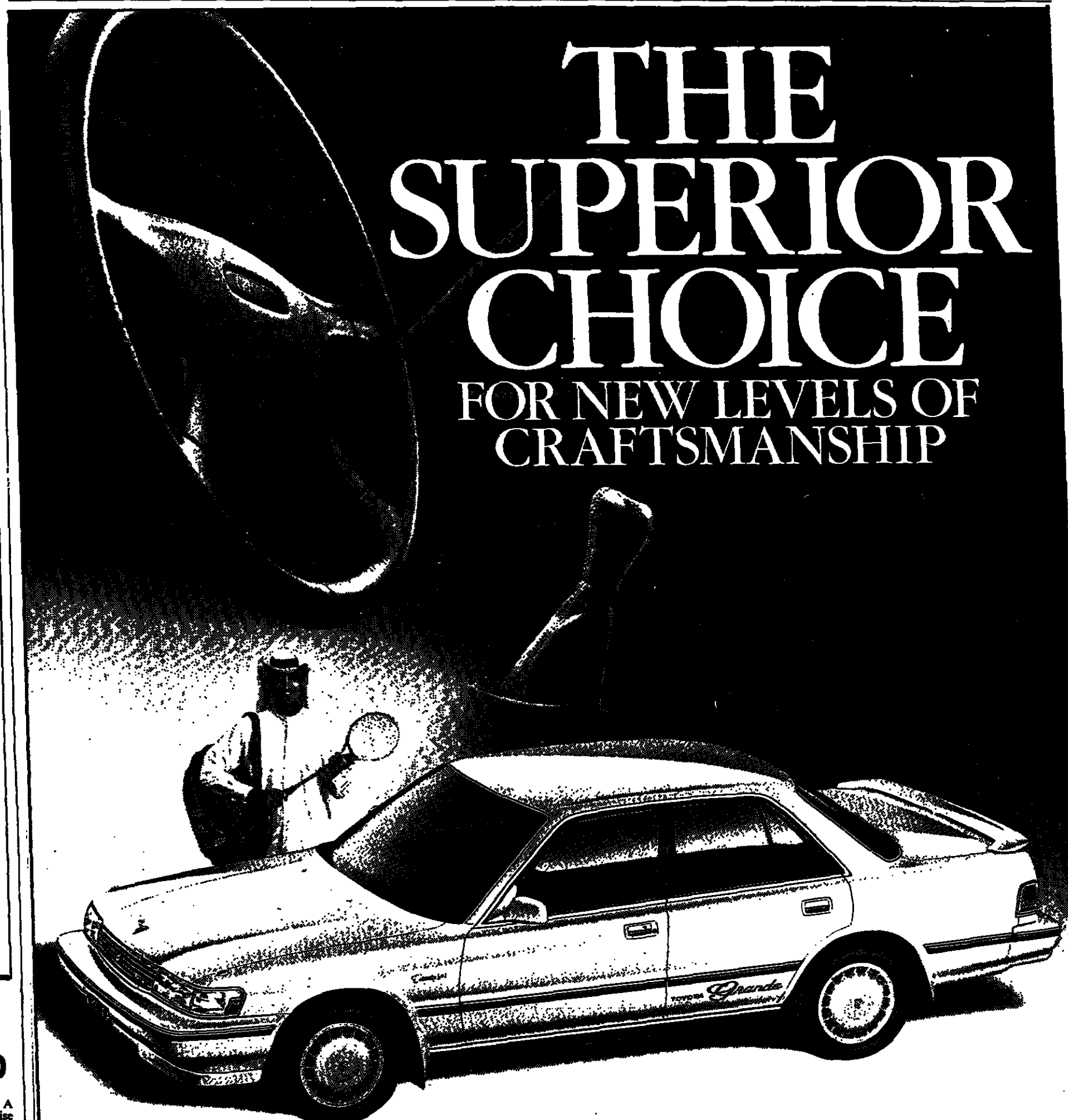
But he said it was made clear to him that his articles on US policy toward Japan, and the way it had been formed, had touched a nerve.

"I can't think of any other country where an issue is discussed in the way it is with Japan," he said. "Japan and its apologists and friends take any criticism as unfriendly and they respond with personal attacks."

"I don't think there is a free and fair debate," he said. "The reaction to criticism about Japan has a chilling effect."

Kearns' first article, which appeared in the Foreign Service journal, and the United States had been taken for a ride in the deal to share technology with the Japanese in the building of the FSX, the next generation fighter aircraft, based on the General Dynamics Corporation's F-16.

Kearns proposed that the United States name a "Team B" to supply an independent point of view to the "Japan Club" in future deals. A "Team B" arrangement was used in the 1970s to dispute administration assessment of Soviet military and strategic strength.



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Soviet seaman

Walks off with \$25,000

SYDNEY, Feb 26. (Reuters): A Soviet seaman walked off a cruise liner in Sydney today with a bag containing some \$25,000 (US) in cash and asked to stay in Australia, officials said.

Immigration officials said they were questioning 32-year-old Alexander Ermina, who walked off the liner Tara Sharschenko onto the pier early in the morning and surrendered to police.

He was carrying around \$25,000 in US and West German currency notes, immigration sources said.

"The seaman is now in immigration custody and will be held at an immigration detention centre pending determination of his claims," a department of immigration spokeswoman said.

The seaman has asked to stay in Australia but has not specifically sought political asylum, said a spokesman for Australia's department of foreign affairs and trade.

INTERNATIONAL

In search of Lama

Chinese, Buddhists clash

BEIJING, Feb 26, (Reuters): China's communist leaders and Tibetan Buddhists are once more in conflict, this time over the mystical search for a revered incarnation of a Buddhist deity.

Officially an atheist body, the Communist Party claims the right to approve the reincarnated successor of the Panchen Lama, Tibet's second highest spiritual leader, who died last year.

After his death, the Panchen Lama's rotund, Buddha-shaped body was gilded in gold and enthroned in a shrine in Tashi Lhunpo monastery in a remote High River Valley.

His painted lips smile and his painted eyes watch over pilgrims and peasants who flock in mourning to the temple in Shigatse, Tibet's second main religious centre.

Fifty monks sit in parallel rows below his throne, meditating on 50 identical pictures of the Lama while reciting prayers for his reincarnation.

A complex historical figure, the Panchen had been China's main spokesman for its policies on Tibet and an intermediary between Beijing and the Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled god-king.

Tibetans believe the Panchen, who died in January 1989, was the 10th incarnation of Amitabha, a Buddhist deity who takes human form to lead followers toward enlightenment.

Like all High Lamas, or monks, he is believed to be able to choose the time and place of his next incarnation.

But last August Chinese Premier Li Peng ordered that the search for the 11th Panchen Lama must be within Chinese borders, conducted by a government-organised committee in accordance with China's constitution and approved by the state council.

Buddhist clergy in Tibet, India and Japan denounced the order as state intrusion into an intimately religious matter.

"Unless Deng Xiaoping and his friends become Buddhist, the search for the next Panchen Lama is none of their business. This is a religious affair, not a political vacancy," said Pema Gyalpo, the Dalai Lama's representative in Tokyo.

According to centuries-old Tibetan custom, senior monks from the Tashi Lhunpo monastery should conduct the search in consultation with high Lamas throughout the region and under the leadership of the Dalai Lama.

Control over the search has become a major issue in the long-running battle between Beijing and the Dalai Lama over the direction of Tibet's religious and political future.

China says it has held sovereignty over Tibet since the 13th century. It sent the People's Liberation Army into the Himalayan region in 1950 to enforce its claim. Full-fledged communist rule began after an anti-Chinese uprising in 1959.

"Traditionally, the responsibility of the recognition and selection of the Dalai Lama or Panchen Lama lies entirely on either of the two who is alive at that time," the Dalai Lama said in an interview in the Indian newspaper Hindustan Times in February last year. "So now the Panchen Lama's reincarnation is my responsibility."

This bond between the two incarnate gods dates back to the 17th century. But Chinese leaders have tried over the centuries to create a schism between the two Lamas, or influence their selection, to gain a political foothold in Tibet.

China's former nationalist government influenced the selection of the 10th Panchen Lama, and he came under control of communist authorities in 1949 when he was 11 years old.

When the Dalai Lama fled to India after the abortive 1959 uprising, the Panchen Lama joined Tibet's new socialist government. But in 1964 he unexpectedly praised the Dalai Lama at a mass rally and called for Tibetan independence.

The Panchen was jailed and tortured in Beijing over the next decade while religious practices in Tibet were forcibly suppressed during the radical cultural revolution.

Despite three decades of exile, the Dalai Lama remains deeply revered in Tibet. Many monks say Tibetans will only recognise an incarnation of the Panchen Lama endorsed by him.

Monks interviewed recently at Tashi Lhunpo said their search committee would consult a myriad of esoteric markers in the quest for the reborn Panchen Lama.



Panchen Lama (Reuters wirephoto)

Citizens suffer in Cambodia fighting

BANGKOK, Feb 26, (Reuters):

Cambodian civilians bore the brunt of a government offensive today after troops using tanks and heavy artillery drove guerrillas from recently-captured areas near the border with Thailand, guerrillas said.

Guerrilla spokesmen said bombardments had killed or wounded hundreds of civilians, and relief officials on the Thai side of the much-crossed frontier prepared for a new stream of refugees.

The guerrillas spoke bitterly about a Chinese cut-off in weapon supplies which they said had left them little chance of hanging on to the slice of northwestern Cambodia they had captured since last September.

The reversal of their own offensive, the biggest advance in the 11-year-old war against the Vietnamese-backed government in Phnom Penh, was seen as a political and military blow as they sat down to peace talks in Jakarta this week.

They appealed to the United States and other Western countries which have previously lent support to fill the gap.

A relief official in the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet said he expected up to 10,000 refugees.

"Preparations have been made, extra supplies have been laid on. There is a trickle but not yet a flood," he said.

In Boeng Trakul, a Cambodian village controlled by the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, a KPRLF official told a reporter from the television film agency Visnews: "The people were just getting used to this new system of administration."

"Now everything will be gone," Nyet Sophon, head of civilian programmes, said in an interview at the weekend.

The government troops appeared to be massing for an assault on Thmar Pouk, the main KPRLF administration centre, after recapturing Svay Chek and other occupied villages on Friday in a drive north from the provincial capital Sisophon.

The KPRLF sources said they were stunned by the ferocity of the offensive, which appeared aimed at boosting the government's hand in the Jakarta talks.

The tanks, artillery and BM21 multiple rocket launchers caused extensive damage to villages.

Call to smash Hanoi regime

Rebels for UN role

JAKARTA, Feb 26, (UPI):

Prince Norodom Ranariddh said today the Cambodian resistance will settle for nothing less than the total dissolution of the Hanoi-backed government in Phnom Penh despite the regime's battlefield victories and UN claims that the demand is too costly to implement.

Standing by his father, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, at the delayed talks aimed at bringing peace to the war-wracked country, Ranariddh said he welcomed the escalating support for a UN interim administration pending free elections, a plan long rejected by the Vietnamese until the recent reversal of their stand.

"The UN must play a real major role," Ranariddh said, insisting upon "the dismantling of all government departments of the present regime."

Ranariddh's arrival remarks set the stage for another standoff



UN Undersecretary-General Rafeuddin Ahmed. (Reuters wirephoto)

Burma lays down strict election rules

BANGKOK, Feb 26, (Reuters): Burma's military government has laid down stringent campaign rules for the country's first elections in 20 years, including regulations requiring parties to obtain permission for meetings.

Western diplomats in Rangoon said the rules showed the government's intention of manipulating the May 27 elections in its favour.

"This is what one might expect. The whole thing is going to be strictly controlled — local authorities deciding whether meetings can be held, the election commission deciding who gets broadcast time," said one diplomat.

The ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), announcing the rules on state radio over the weekend, said they would ensure a "disciplined and

orderly" election campaign.

Under SLORC election campaign order 3/90, parties will have to apply at least seven days in advance for permission to organise meetings of more than five people and supply details of the place, time, and names and addresses of speakers.

They will be granted permits on condition that they do not "cause disturbances to government offices, organisations, state-owned mills, factories, places of work, schools and public hospitals," Rangoon radio quoted the order.

Candidates were also warned "not to carry sticks, swords, arms, ammunition and other objects likely to cause danger," and "not to obstruct traffic and block roads."

Rushdie ruling challenged

LONDON, Feb 26, (Reuters): A British Muslim group launched a fresh court challenge today to bring author Salman Rushdie to trial for allegedly blaspheming Islam.

It was the latest round in a legal battle by the British Muslim Action Front to bring Rushdie and his publishers Viking Penguin to trial over his novel "The Satanic Verses."

The front's lawyer, Ali Azhar, asked high court judges to overturn a decision last March by a magistrate not to allow charges against Rushdie on the grounds that British blasphemy laws do not apply to Islam.

Azhar told a packed courtroom that the novel "vilified the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) and grossly outraged and deeply insulted the

religious feelings of Muslims."

He said he based his case on judicial authorities stating that blasphemy involved "indecent and offensive attacks on Christianity or the scriptures or sacred persons or objects."

Abdul Choudhury, convenor of the British Muslim Action Front, is seeking a judicial review of chief metropolitan magistrate Sir David Hopkin denial of summonses to prosecute Rushdie and the Viking Penguin publishing company for "blasphemous libel and seditious libel under common law."

Hopkin refused the March 1989 plea on the grounds that British blasphemy laws applied only to Christianity.

In June, Choudhury won permission from

Judge Sir Michael Nolan in the high court to challenge the decision. Choudhury argued that Hopkin's ruling was erroneous and Nolan said it was necessary to hear legal arguments.

Nolan's action resulted in Muslims celebrating with cheers and impromptu prayer meetings outside the law courts.

Last year Home Office Minister John Patten told leading British Muslims that extending the blasphemy laws could damage relations between different religions.

A year ago the late Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini branded Rushdie's novel heretical and ordered Muslims to kill him and those associated with its publication. Tehran and London broke diplomatic ties as a result.

Indian-born Rushdie, who has been in hiding since Khomeini's decree, was not in the heavily guarded courtroom. Lawyers and the public were admitted only after thorough searches.

Earlier this month Khomeini's successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, renewed the death order on Rushdie who describes himself as a lapsed Muslim and denies the book is blasphemous.

The burning of Rushdie's book by Muslims in the English city of Bradford in January last year marked the start of similar protests that spread across the Muslim world.

Azhar said at least 30 people died in the subsequent clashes between police and demonstrators over "The Satanic Verses."

China leaders' shakeup likely

Deng unhappy with Li

BEIJING, Feb 26, (Agencies): Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping is deeply unhappy with the performance of the headline Premier Li Peng, but has agreed with other leaders to retain him through this year to preserve political stability, Chinese sources say.

Deng, however, has devised a strategy to call a major Communist Party meeting in 1991 during which he hopes to engineer the removal of Li and the true retirement of the conservative party elders supporting the unpopular premier, the sources said.

Rumours of a power struggle and a possible shakeup in the Chinese leadership's upper echelons have been circulating for weeks in advance of the annual session of China's rubber-stamp Parliament, the National People's Congress, which opens March 20.

The meeting will be the first full NPC session since last year's pro-democracy movement and the crackdown that followed. Government personnel changes are announced each year during the session, which generally ratifies decisions already made by party leaders.

Interviewed in recent days, the sources, including Chinese with connections to senior officials and a party member with access to internal documents, said Li would stay on, although one or two vice premiers and about four government ministers may lose their posts.

"Deng is not satisfied with Li Peng," one source said. "But the party is stressing stability, and they don't want to make any major changes."

The leaders believe that dumping the premier, who was publicly instrumental in last year's violent suppression of the protests, might be seen as a partial reversal of their stance that the crackdown was justified, the sources said.

"The old leaders realise that getting rid of Li Peng would please Western nations, but fear it might start domestic turmoil," a party member explained. "It would be like admitting they were wrong."

As for much of the past decade, the current divisions in the leadership pit Deng and moderates supporting his free-market economic reforms against elderly hardliners who favour central planning and are wary of the "open-door" policy towards the West.

The godfather of the hardline camp is Chen Yun, 85, one of Li Peng's mentors and the chairman of the party's Central Advisory Commission, a powerful club of conservative elders who launched a broad political tightening after last spring's unrest.

Ironically, Deng persuaded the hardliners to relinquish most of their official posts at the party's 1987 national congress, but was forced to turn to them for support last June in the crackdown on the protests. They have since strongly reasserted their influence.

The Chinese sources said Li, backed by Chen and another prominent hardliner, Vice-President Wang Zhen, are leading an internal movement to roll back many of Deng's reforms, despite public support for the Deng-inspired party line of continuing the programme.

"Deng wants to resume the reform and opening," said a well-connected party member. "The others have been giving lip service to reform, especially to foreigners, but internally they have been rolling it back."

Inspired by the conservatives, the leadership has since late 1988 employed a broad retrenchment programme that has cooled the overheated economy and reined in inflation. But the price has been an industrial slowdown and an alarming rise in unemployment.

Li, 62, a colourful and uninspiring leader, seems universally disliked, even by officials. The sources said Deng and other leaders are unhappy with Li's economic work and he is the prime candidate to serve as a scapegoat should the economic downturn worsen.

However, the sources said Deng has indicated to associates he will wait and hopes to convene a national party congress next year, a year earlier than the five-year interval that has generally prevailed.

At that meeting he hopes to retire the conservative elders and abolish the Central Advisory Commission, to which he has economic goals.

The plan is tenuous and oddly depends on which of the elderly leaders survives. Deng's health has clearly weakened during the past year, while Chen Yun has been reportedly near death for months. Several other leaders are also ailing.

Last year the Communist Party's coddled officials were deprived of 10-course banquets and chauffeured Mercedes. Now they are being wrenched from their offices and told to mingle with the masses.



Protection

Despite petrol bombs and stones thrown by anti-government protesters, anti-riot policemen put up wire fence to protect themselves on Feb 25 as about 700 students, workers, and young radicals staged a street demonstration calling for the overthrow of President Roh-Tae-Woo whom they called a dictator. (Reuters wirephoto)

Seoul will free jailed leftists

Amnesty declared

SEOUL, Feb 26, (AP): The government said today it would free 22 "leftists," mostly convicted of espionage for communist North Korea, and 1,089 ordinary prisoners in an amnesty aimed at promoting national harmony.

The announcement said 1,111 "model" prisoners would be released on parole or probation Wednesday, the eve of the 71st anniversary of the nation's 1919 popular uprising against Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule.

Those to be released include So Sung, 44, who has served almost 17 years in prison on espionage charges, it said.

So, a Korean who lived in Japan, was arrested in 1971 while studying at a college in Seoul. His sentence of life imprisonment later was commuted to 20 years, ending on March 12, 1993.

Friends and relatives in Japan had demanded So's release, contending the charges against him were trumped up.

The announcement gave no

details on other prisoners being given amnesty, except to say that 22 leftist prisoners were selected "in consideration of their repentance over their past wrongdoings."

The term leftist generally is used to mean pro-communist.

It said the amnesty "will be in line with the democratisation measures that the government has been steadfastly implementing in recent months and will also be aimed at promoting a climate of national harmony."

Government officials said about 150 leftists are in prison on espionage or similar charges.

They said dissidents jailed for anti-government activity are not included in the amnesty.

The government claims South Korea has no political prisoners, or prisoners of conscience, but dissidents claim there may be as many as 1,000 prisoners of conscience, including radical students and workers jailed for participating in political protests.

Activist shot in Brussels

Kosovo violence echo

BRUSSELS, Feb 26, (AP): An activist from the troubled Yugoslav province of Kosovo was slain in Brussels yesterday, police said.

Enver Hadri, chairman of the Belgium branch of the committee for human rights in Kosovo, was shot as he sat in his car in the Brussels suburb of Saint Gilles, witnesses said.

Police said he was taken in critical condition to the nearest hospital, where he died about four hours later, police said. Witnesses told police the murderer fled by car.

Kosovo expatriates in Brussels, quoted by the Belgian News Agency Belga, said the attack was politically motivated.

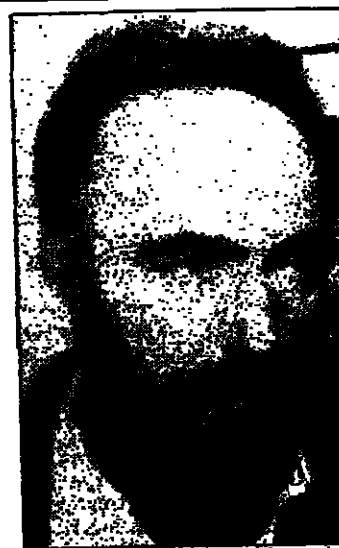
Ethnic Albanians make up 90 per cent of the population of Kosovo, which has been torn by riots in recent months. It is a part of the Republic of Serbia but not fully subject to its control.

Kosovo, which borders Albania, was a part of ancient Serbia. Most of the Christian Serbs in the province view the Muslim Albanians as intruders and allege Serbs in Kosovo are being harassed by the Albanians.

In other developments, US Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger arrived yesterday in strife-torn Yugoslavia on the last leg of his four-nation European tour.

Eagleburger, a former ambassador to Belgrade, is due to meet with Yugoslavia's reformist Prime Minister Ante Markovic, Foreign Minister Borko Stokich and other top officials during his two-day official visit, the state Tanjug news agency reported.

It said Eagleburger, whose tour included Poland, Hungary and Austria, would be "appraising" the sweeping economic changes currently under way in Yugoslavia and the "possibility



Enver Hadri (Reuters wirephoto)

of attracting US capital."

He will also discuss the "deep political divisions between the nationalistic republics that are threatening the stability of this Balkan country," said a Western diplomat who declined to be identified.

Eagleburger is scheduled to meet with officials from Yugoslavia's most liberal northern state of Slovenia, which advocates regional autonomy and is scheduled to hold in April the country's first multi-party elections in 45 years, media reports said.

Slovenia is at odds with the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia over what its politicians describe as Serbian repression of ethnic Albanians in the southern province of Kosovo.

Serbian communist leaders, with whom Eagleburger is also scheduled to meet, claim that "emergency measures" are needed to protect the Slav population in Kosovo from alleged Albanian harassment.

Carlsson voted back into office

Revamps economic policy

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Feb 26, (AP): Parliament confirmed Ingvar Carlsson as prime minister of a new Social Democratic government today, 11 days after he resigned when his economic austerity policy was defeated.

The vote of 175-101, with 59 abstentions, came after Carlsson revamped his proposals to rescue Sweden from an inflation rate climbing toward 9 per cent amid stagnant growth. Fourteen legislators were absent from the 349-member Riksdag.

The new cabinet will be presented and installed tomorrow.

The vote ended the worst political crisis for the Social Democrats since they returned to power in 1982 after a six-year hiatus, the only time they sat in opposition since 1932.

The Social Democrats, who control 156 seats, won support from the 21-member Communist Party when Carlsson dropped a proposal to impose a two-year freeze on wages and prices and to ban strikes.

The new 17-point package called

for importing foreign workers from the Soviet Baltic states to alleviate an inflation-boosting labour shortage, and higher taxes on alcohol and tobacco.

Two centre-right opposition parties condemned what they called Carlsson's sham resignation and said they favoured immediate elections, 18 months ahead of schedule.

"The government crisis looks like a piece of absurd theatre, in which many have been forced to play along," said Bengt Westerberg, leader of the Liberal Party.

Carl Bildt, head of the Conservative Moderate Party said, "we say 'no' to the prime minister being allowed to return as if nothing had happened."

The opposition was given a chance last week to assemble a ruling coalition. But the three non-socialist parties failed to patch over differences on economic and energy policy or overcome the socialist majority held by the Social Democrats and Communists.

Lies: N. Korea

No nuke arms

TOKYO, Feb 26, (AP): North Korea today denied reports that it is trying to develop nuclear weapons, and said its research is devoted to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Pyeongyang's official Korea Central News Agency said reports in Japanese and Western media that North Korea was pursuing the development of nuclear weapons were "sheer lies and fabrication."

KCNA, monitored in Tokyo, said the reports were an attempt to "deny the non-nuclear policy" of North Korea and to "find a pretext to refuse the withdrawal of the US troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea."

"We are conducting researches into the utilisation of atomic energies for peaceful purposes ... (and to) fully meet the growing demand for electric power," the KCNA report said.

Earlier this month, officials at a Japanese Research Institute said satellite photographs indicated the north has secretly expanded its nuclear facilities during the past four years, possibly in violation of the international treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Under the treaty, which North Korea signed in 1985, 140 countries agreed to prevent the transfer of nuclear weapons and expansion of facilities used to make them.

Jane's weekly, a British defence magazine, also said in September that the North was building four or five facilities near an existing plant in the Yongbyon area.

Jane's added that the North could "produce a nuclear device within five years, and a deliverable nuclear bomb shortly thereafter."

Kohl's stand upsets Poland

WARSAW, Feb. 26, (Reuters): Poland today expressed disappointment at West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's failure to renounce all claims to present Polish territory during two-day talks with US President George Bush.

"The chancellor had been expected to assure President Bush of the inviolability of Poland's Western frontier. In light of such expectations the outcome of the talks seems wretched from a Polish standpoint," the government daily Rzeczpospolita said.

Kohl's reluctance to formally recognise Poland's territorial integrity has alarmed Warsaw, and the chancellor's statements at Bush's Camp David retreat did little to ease Polish concern.

"Kohl did little more than reiterate his previous position that only the democratically-elected Parliament of a unified German state could finally settle the border issue," the daily said.

Warsaw has tried to win guarantees for former German lands ceded to Poland after World War Two and to secure a seat at international talks on Germany's future.

Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki has called for separate border treaties with East and West Germany ahead of their actual unification — a demand that Bonn rejects.

Kohl's attempts to explain his tortured stand on Poland's post-war German border left many West-German politicians cold today.

Several urged him to finally recognise the frontier drawn at the end of World War Two, now the border with East Germany.

Leaders from the three major parties said Kohl had not cleared up the issue during talks with United States President George Bush over the weekend and they would take steps to try to force him to do so.

But a key group of Kohl voters — Germans expelled from Poland and other East European countries after the war — urged him to stand firm and demand concessions from Warsaw.

The chancellor, who faces a right-wing challenge at the polls in December, told a press conference with Bush yesterday that nobody wanted to change the border.

But despite agreeing with Bush that a united Germany would remain in Nato he insisted that only the government of the new state could decide the border issue.

This legalistic stand has set off alarm bells in Poland, where many fear a strong united Germany would demand the return of former German lands ceded to Warsaw after the war.

"Our patience with Kohl is at an end," said Hildegard Hammer-Brucher, foreign policy spokeswoman for the Free Democrats (FDP), Kohl's junior coalition partner.

Hamm-Brucher said the FDP, whose leader Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher also backs a border guarantee, would consider whether it should continue its eight-year coalition with Kohl if he did not stop avoiding the issue.

The opposition Social Democrats (SPD) said they and East Germany's SPD, tipped to win East German elections on March 18, would introduce motions in both legislatures calling for formal joint recognition of the border, known as the Oder-Neisse line.



Ines Selbmann (right) elected as 'Miss Leipzig 1990' and Nadja Gerlach (left) as runner-up. (Reuters wirephoto)

Havel meets Gorbachev as Soviet pullout begins

Both leaders expected to sign total withdrawal agreement



Gorbachev (right) greets Havel prior to their talks. (Reuters wirephoto)

MOSCOW, Feb. 26, (UPI): Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel met Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev today during a visit expected to end with a signed agreement to withdraw all 73,500 Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia.

As Havel, the playwright-turned-president, arrived in the Soviet capital, the first Soviet units began leaving Czechoslovakia in a pullout ending one of the grimmest pages of the Leonid Brezhnev era — the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion of 1968 that suffocated the Prague Spring reform movement.

The pullback from Czechoslovakia is part of Gorbachev's new policy of ending costly overseas occupations to concentrate on domestic problems. Soviet troops are

leaving Hungary, and the Russian vessels have started pulling out of Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam.

The Soviets have said that the bulk of the withdrawal from Czechoslovakia will be completed by this June, but complete pullout will only be completed in 1991.

Havel, however, has said he wants all the troops and equipment out by the end of 1990.

"In Moscow, we shall not sign any capitulation acts. We shall go into council on how to eliminate the consequences of the 20-year capitulation," Havel said in Prague yesterday, referring to ending the occupation.

Both the Soviet side was making every effort for a quick compromise on any

timetable differences.

"There are no fundamental differences between the USSR and Czechoslovakia on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the country," Col Gen. Anatoly Kleimenov, deputy chief of the general staff of the Soviet armed forces, told the Tass news agency.

Gorbachev's hands-off policy in Eastern Europe allowed the Czechoslovaks to rid themselves of one of the most oppressive communist regimes in what was once known as the iron bloc countries.

Havel, who visited the Soviet Union 23 years ago as an individual and not a government figure, said recently he was looking forward to his return.

"I shall go to Moscow as the president of a country that wants to establish really friendly relations with the USSR," he said. "These relations will be beneficial for both sides."

Havel, who met with President George Bush last week, was greeted at the airport by Anatoly Lukyanov, the Soviet vice-president. Havel began his visit by laying a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier near the Kremlin wall and then was received by Gorbachev in the Kremlin.

During his visit, Havel will also lay a wreath at the grave of human rights activist Andrei Sakharov, who was a great proponent of the Prague Spring democracy movement of 1968 and one of its defenders even when Brezhnev was alive.

Democracy activists overcome obstacles

Sajudis sweep to victory; Moldavians go to polls

MOSCOW, Feb. 26, (Agencies): Pro-democracy activists overcame fear and official obstacles to march by the thousands across the Soviet Union.

"We heard about tanks, about police waiting with gas and shovels," said a middle-aged woman who was not deterred from demonstrating yesterday in Moscow.

"All was against us," Gavril Popov, a member of the Congress of People's Deputies, told the crowd in Moscow's Zubovsky Square.

The Moscow protest was estimated at between about 100,000- and 500,000-strong. Reports from police, local activists interviewed by telephone and state-run media indicated as many as 276,000 people took part in protest rallies in 32 cities outside Moscow, from Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky in the Soviet Far East to Leningrad on the Baltic Sea.

But frequent official warnings that the Soviet Union's first nationwide protest could turn violent kept the turnout low in some cities and prevented some protests altogether.

Riot police dragged away people who tried to hold an unsanctioned demonstration in Leningrad, but there were no reports of major unrest.

"The city council was late in announcing the site, time, routes," Popov said. "Television has special entertainment shows on. The authorities have waged a campaign of stepping up tensions, hysteria, rumours, provocations and libel unheard of since 1937," when Stalin's campaign of terror reached its height.

The protests were planned after a successful Feb. 4 pro-democracy rally in Moscow in which about 200,000 people demanded the Communist Party give up its monopoly on power. The party did so shortly afterward.

Demonstrators yesterday demanded democratic reforms, free press, free elections, and the abolition of the one-party system.

Speakers endorsed progressive candidates running in March 4 parliamentary elections in the Russian federation and demanded the ouster of members of the ruling politburo and council of ministers, as well as KGB chief Vladimir A. Kryuchkov.

The Moscow rally started tentatively, with citizens clearly intimidated by authorities' warnings of impending violence and promises of harsh penalties for extremists.

Gradually, as it became clear that the army of police and Interior Ministry troops were not preparing to charge, throngs of Muscovites joined the meeting. Red, blue and white flags of Tsarist Russia fluttered in the occasional drizzle along with red and black flags of anarchists and the sky-blue cross on a white background of the memorial society dedicated to remembering the victims of Stalin.

Estimates of the number of protesters in the capital varied widely from 200,000 reported by the official press agency Novosti, which had a view of the rally site, to a half-million claimed by Popov.

An independent newsletter issued by Radio Moscow quoted unnamed Interior Ministry officials as putting the crowd at 300,000.

Maj. Gen. Georgy Postoyuk of the Interior Ministry, who said he was in charge of security at Gorky Park, estimated 100,000 people gathered at the park. They then marched across a bridge over the Moscow river and met up with a considerably smaller group that had gathered at the Foreign Ministry. Together, they headed to the rally site.

Several planned counter-demonstrations of conservative and nationalist groups elsewhere in Moscow never materialised.

A special information centre of the Novosti press agency said 100,000 people gathered on Lenin Square in Minsk, the Byelorussian capital, for the largest turnout reported outside the Soviet capital.

This usually peaceful West African nation is being undermined by growing discontent over austerity measures imposed to counter a 10-year-old recession.

"Free our comrades," a group of about 200 students yelled as they ran through the central Boulevard de La Republique, before fleeing riot police who fired tear-gas and a stun grenade.

They told reporters they want direct talks with Houphouet-Boigny, the 34-year-old president who has ruled the Ivory Coast as a one-party state since its independence from France in 1960. Militant students are demanding he step down and give way to a multiparty democracy.

In Yopougon, a working class suburb where the unrest

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In Yopougon, a working class suburb where the unrest

13 blacks killed

End fighting, appeals Mandela

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 26, (AP): Thirteen blacks, including four policemen, were killed in a series of attacks, most of which had political overtones, police and witnesses said today.

The reports came the day after African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela urged a huge crowd to end the black-on-black fighting in the southeastern province on Natal that has claimed some 3,000 lives over the past four years.

Police with shotguns killed two protesters and wounded four more today when they fired on a crowd attacking a community centre in a black township near the central town of Kroomstad, police said.

Two policemen were fatally shot near Pietermaritzburg in Natal province last night and two other officers died in separate incidents nearby, police added.

Three men were killed and two injured in clashes yesterday in Natal between rival factions, police said. Warring groups burned houses and huts in two areas of Natal during the fighting, they said.

In the black homeland of Venda, two people were killed when police dispersed a rally on Saturday in honour of Mandela, the independent South African Press Association said in a report that quoted a witness.

Also, police said two men were burned to death in Soweto, outside Johannesburg. The men had car tyres placed around their necks and set alight, a form of attack known as the "necklace." Police said they did not know the motive for the killings.

In Cape Town, police arrested about 25 people demonstrating outside Parliament in support of relatives at the nearby Robben Island prison who have been jailed for politically motivated acts. Police declared the protest illegal and forced the demonstrators, mostly women, into vans.

The anti-apartheid Mass Democratic Movement said 343 men were participating in a hunger strike at the prison. The prison service said only that "a number" of inmates were not eating.

The hunger strikers consider themselves political prisoners who should be freed under reforms initiated by the President F. W. de Klerk, the Mass Democratic Movement said.

De Klerk has said his government will release people convicted of belonging to previously outlawed groups that he legalised Feb. 2. However, the government has refused to free activists convicted of violent crimes.

De Klerk legalised the African National Congress and other black opposition groups and released Mandela in a bid to start talks on ending white-minority rule and sharing power with blacks.

Mandela, meanwhile, resumed his busy schedule of meetings today at his Soweto home.

He held talks with Helen Suzman, an anti-apartheid politician who retired last year after 36 years in Parliament, and Gavin Relf, chief executive of Anglo American, the world's largest gold mining firm.

Mandela, who favours state control of the mines, said afterward: "Nationalisation (of the mines) is the policy of the ANC and it is a step which is perfectly logical."

Relf told reporters he did not discuss nationalisation with Mandela, but said such a policy was "not practical to make modern economies work."

Mandela also met black trade union leaders, a 12-member Italian parliamentary delegation and visited inmates at the Diepkloof prison in Soweto.

He leaves tomorrow for the ANC's exile headquarters in Zambia, his first stop on an 18-day, four-nation tour.

Mandela, in a speech yesterday in the port city of



Mandela (right) greets Gavin Relf, chairman of Anglo-American Corp of South Africa Ltd. outside his Soweto township home. (Reuters wirephoto)

SA protest

Mass hunger strike at jail

CAPE TOWN, Feb. 26, (Reuters): Over 300 prisoners at the infamous Robben Island jail off Cape Town where Nelson Mandela spent most of his prison term went on hunger strike today, a prisons department spokesman said.

Human rights activists said the 343 prisoners, who consider themselves incarcerated for political reasons, were demanding their own release and an improvement in prison conditions.

Last year a country-wide series of hunger strikes prompted the government to free hundreds detained without trial under South Africa's state of emergency regulations.

Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee said a year ago that 374 people were serving sentences of offences against state security.

But the anti-apartheid human rights commission said Coetsee's figure did not include about 3,000 political prisoners held in tribal homelands — black mini-states set up by Pretoria for the country's different tribes.

Reformist President F. W. de Klerk has removed restrictions affecting the activities of the African National Congress (ANC), the main group fighting white rule, and declared an amnesty for ANC members convicted of non-violent crimes.

Durban, said the black faction fighting in Natal hindered the battle against apartheid, South Africa's policy of racial segregation.

"My message to those of you involved in this battle of brother against brother is this: take your guns, your knives and your pangas and throw them into the sea," Mandela told an estimated 100,000 blacks.

Anglican bishops of Southern Africa led by Archbishop Desmond Tutu called on the African National Congress for the first time yesterday to suspend its armed struggle against white rule, citing President Frederik de Klerk's reform initiatives.

Romania rights record better

GENEVA, Feb. 26, (AP): The human rights situation in Romania has markedly improved since the revolution that toppled the regime of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu but fear, suspicion, and distrust linger on, according to a UN report released today.

The report specifically mentioned death threats against politicians and widespread concern that the Securitate, Ceausescu's repressive secret police, may be still active.

It also noted that the problem of ethnic minorities in the country will still require "close examination and adequate measures" and that the launching and distribution of printed media is "not yet fully assured."

The report was compiled by Swiss jurist Joseph Vovatz appointed special investigator under a mandate from the 43-nation UN Human Rights Commission issued last year.

KUWAIT UNIVERSITY

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Civil Engineering of Kuwait University is pleased to invite researchers and engineers to a lecture entitled:

"Traffic Accidents Clustering"

Speaker : Dr. Alan Nicholson
University of Canterbury, Christchurch
New Zealand.

Date : Wednesday 28/2/1990
Time : 12:30 Afternoon
Place : Conference Room, Bldg. 5KH, 2nd floor, Khalidiah.

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Police getting more violent, fire tear-gas at protesting students in Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, Feb. 26, (AP): Riot police fired tear-gas and a stun grenade today at student protesters who were demanding the release of detained friends and talks with President Felix Houphouet-Boigny about social injustices.

Police also attacked peaceful protesters at the main campus and outside a suburban university residence, and beat up students who blockaded a marketplace, witnesses said.

Police appeared to be reacting with increasing violence as student protests entered their eighth day, defying last night's appeal by Houphouet-Boigny for an end to the unrest.

This usually peaceful West African nation is being undermined by growing discontent over austerity measures imposed to counter a 10-year-old recession.

"Free our comrades," a group of about 200 students yelled as they ran through the central Boulevard de La Republique, before fleeing riot police who fired tear-gas and a stun grenade.

They told reporters they want direct talks with Houphouet-Boigny, the 34-year-old president who has ruled the Ivory Coast as a one-party state since its independence from France in 1960. Militant students are demanding he step down and give way to a multiparty democracy.

In Yopougon, a working class suburb where the unrest

began Feb. 19, witnesses said police fired tear-gas and stun grenades at a small group of students who refused to get on two buses police said would take them from their dormitories to the main campus in Cocody suburb, three miles away.

At the campus, students said riot police wielding truncheons set upon peaceful protesters and spectators who got in the way. A reporter at the scene said he watched three policemen repeatedly beat a student who stumbled and fell in the stampede to get away from the attackers.

A taxi driver said he watched police beat students who set up a blockade in the marketplace of Adjame, a residential suburb for working class and middle class Ivorians.

The students fled, he said.

Militant students tried to congregate in the city centre to protest outside the presidential offices, where Houphouet-Boigny was meeting with representatives of businesses, trade unions and professional organisations.

Sources said he is trying to win their support for additional austerity measures expected to be announced at a bigger meeting to include legislators tomorrow.

Employees at government-owned companies had their salaries cut 30 per cent this month, and the students want cabinet ministers' pay also reduced by that amount.

Other civil servants have had their salary levels frozen for eight years.

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Kuwaiti tanker still burning

Surf City being towed toward Indian Ocean

MANAMA, Feb 26, (AP): The crippled oil tanker Surf City, imperiled by a resurgence of fires fed by leaks from its weakened cargo tanks, was towed from the Gulf today toward the Indian Ocean.

Several salvage tugboats and at least one US Navy warship accompanied the \$1,233-ton vessel on a tense 10-hour transit of the Strait of Hormuz, gateway to the Gulf, military and shipping industry sources reported.

The move was described as precautionary in case another fire causes the vessel to sink in busy

shipping lanes or damage offshore terminal facilities along the United Arab Emirates coast.

The Surf City, one of 11 Kuwait-owned tankers refueled by the United States in 1987 to afford them US naval protection from attack in the Iran-Iraq war, was wrecked by a massive internal fire Thursday as it headed down the Gulf with a cargo of naphtha and diesel fuel bound for Italy.

A Gulf-based shipping executive, who asked that he not be named, said salvage tugs were

spraying foam and water on the Surf City as it moved under tow.

He said a southerly wind was helping to cool the ship but would also slow its progress. The fire killed the American captain and first mate and forced the other 23 crew to abandon ship. They were rescued by the missile frigate USS Simpson, patrolling nearby.

All were later flown home, except boatswain Earl Washington, 41, of Louisiana, who remains in a Dubai hospital with burns.

United Arab Emirates coast while up to a dozen salvage tugs battled around the clock to contain the fires raging in the starboard cargo tanks.

The fires were controlled briefly Friday but erupted again when some of the tanks, earlier said to be 70 per cent intact, began leaking their volatile contents.

The tanker was being towed out of the Gulf at the request of authorities in the emirate of Sharjah, who feared another fire could damage offshore oil facilities there.

Promotion system of medicos may change

Call for increase in basic salaries

THE Assistant Undersecretary for Technical Affairs at Kuwait's Ministry of Public Health Dr Tarek Al Abdullader was quoted as saying that a proposal has been submitted to Kuwait's Civil Service Commission (CSC) suggesting the revision of the promotion system of employees working in the medical field.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the proposed system is based on connecting of functional developments with scientific conditions rather than the number of years of service. He said that the Ministry is not upholding the current classification system applicable to the physicians cadre. He clarified that the ministry at present is demanding the cancelling of the category "D" among the doctors classification provided that the whole functional classification should be reviewed in the future.

He disclosed that the ministry is striving to appoint doctors at health centres especially those who have diplomas in family medicine in Category "B" instead of "C".

But he added that the positions of doctors working at the health centres will not be changed unless they develop their functional career. Meanwhile, the official has called for increasing of the basic salary of doctors, clarifying it is not acceptable that the one fifth of the doctor's salary is listed under the item of special allowances which would not be included in the pension.

Positions

Meanwhile, the official has denied that there is a difference between the positions of the doctors working in the hospital and those working at the health centres. He clarified that the sole difference rests in the amount of technical allowance which

should be decided in the light of the nature of the job.

The assistant undersecretary on the other hand has excluded any change in the functional system of dentists. He disclosed that the ministry is planning to distribute dental consultants in the health areas instead of keeping them all at the Amiri Dental Centre. He added that the ministry is striving seriously to set up dental centres in all the country's health areas.

He added that the ministry started setting up dental centres at Farwaniya, Adan and Jahra areas and commented that the Amiri Dental Centre will be transferred into an area dental centre.

Speaking of the pharmaceutical services law, the official confirmed that the new law classifies pharmacists into several denominations including assistant pharmacists, pharmacists, specialised pharmacists, pharmaceutical technicians and medical assistants.

He confirmed that this classification is aiming at developing pharmaceutical services and stressed the importance of differentiating between pharmacists who have Pharm B, (BA) Pharm M, Pharm C and Pharm D. He added that the ministry is striving to increase the pharmacists salaries.

Speaking of the medical laboratories, the official said that the organisational structure of the medical laboratories staff had been endorsed last year, confirming that the new appointments will be in accordance with new classifications.

Decentralisation

Speaking of job development at the ministry's utilities, the official said, on the state level there is a trend for decentralisation. He added that the ministry

is planning within this framework to grant more power to health areas.

He also said that the ministry is striving to apply the hospitals system on the health centres by setting up new departments at such centres such as maternity, gynaecology and paediatrics.

He disclosed that the ministry will need ten years more to circulate the Family Medicine System at all health centres.

On the other hand, the official praised the new health registration system, confirming that the system represents an important measure towards improving health services. He stressed that employees at the health centres have been given strict instructions to abide by the new system.

He added that the quality control system which had been applied at the hospitals had proved to be successful and accordingly it will be applied at the health centres soon.

Insurance

Speaking of the health insurance system, the official said that the establishing of Health Insurance Authority project will be reviewed and confirmed that the project will be implemented with or without fees to be deducted from the participants salaries. He confirmed that the proposed Health Insurance Authority will be separated from the ministry with an independent budget and board of directors in addition to a special law and charter.

Meanwhile, the official disclosed that the ministry has called for the setting up of a new hospital at Mishan in view of the increasing population density in the district of Hawalli, Farwaniya and Adan. He added that the proposed hospital staff contains about 500 beds.

Municipality striving to provide help to farmers

THE acting director general of Kuwait Municipality, Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al Ali was quoted as saying that municipality is striving to solve the problems of Kuwaiti farmers and that it will spare no efforts to extend the necessary services to the agricultural sector and other national entities.

He told reporters in the wake of the meeting held with the chairman of the Kuwaiti Farmers Union Sheikh Ali Jaber Al Ahmed and some members that the municipality will very shortly be reorganising the unloading process at the vegetable market in addition to the possibility of giving provisional licenses for some shops to be operated by union members.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the union, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed, confirmed the importance of solving marketing problems encountered by the union, clarifying that Shed No. 4 at the vegetable market will be expanded. Permanent stalls at the other three sheds will be allocated to farmers to sell their produce.

He said that the meeting with Sheikh Ali Jaber had discussed the possibility of allocating places in different governorates for marketing the union's agricultural products. He disclosed that the union had suggested the allocation of specific places at the sheep market for selling of Kuwaiti fodder in addition to allocating some places at Al Abdali and Al Wafra for selling agricultural output on Thursdays and Fridays.

Meanwhile, the controller of Central Market at Kuwait Municipality, Mohammed Al Mishan said that the municipality has appropriated a budget for expanding Shed No. 4 at the vegetable market. But, he said that allocation of additional places for union members is not possible at the present time.

Knee-joint transplants successful

AL RAZI HOSPITAL has performed about one hundred surgeries to transplant artificial knee-joints — all of which have been successful.

Disclosing this information, Dr Abdul Raheem Al Zaid, director of the hospital said that visiting doctors and professors to the hospital have been highly appreciative of the professional medical services of the hospital. He said that the hospital conducts contacts between patients who want to undergo surgery and those who have already undergone such surgery several years ago. Films of patients who have undergone surgery are also shown to prospective patients with the aim of familiarising them with what is involved in the operation.

Dr Abdullah Al Mahki who performs these surgeries at the hospital is a pioneer in this field and the success rate has been recorded at a commendable 100 per cent level, the official said.

Patients who visit the hospital for undergoing knee transplant joints, come from several Arab countries like Yemen, Jordan, Lebanon, Sudan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. This is because Kuwait is the first country in the Middle East that undertakes such artificial transplants. All such surgeries are performed free of charge in accordance with the health agreements signed between Kuwait and these countries.

Mahki said that patients who do not respond to medicine should opt for transplants. The hospital began changing knee joints in 1982. He said that basically, patients who are over 55 years are advised to undergo surgery. In exceptional cases, patients who are young and suffer from one of the rare diseases of joints are advised to undergo surgery.



National Day exhibition

Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmad opened the eighth National Day exhibition at the arts hall of the Kuwaiti Formative Arts Society in Abdullah Al Salem. The opening was attended by a number of officials and ministers and also members of the society.

The exhibition included a total of 103 art works presented by 62 artists who came from all GCC states. The Kuwaiti Formative Arts Society presented special awards for distinguished work.

Greetings and congratulations National Day celebrated in embassies world-wide

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 26, (Kuna): Kuwait celebrated its National Day Friday in the UN mission located a stone's throw from the United Nations complex on the banks of the east river.

The party was given by Kuwait's Permanent Representative, Mohammed A. Abulhasan two days earlier because National Day this year fell on a weekend here.

Among the many personalities attending were UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, General Assembly President Joseph Garba of Nigeria and some 500 diplomats, representatives of the press and other friends of the mission.

Garba, Nigeria's former permanent representative, was reassigned to a new post in Lagos late last year, but was in New York to lead the General Assembly's special session on international co-operation against illicit drugs.

Garba extended to HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed, HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed his appreciation for the positive developments and aspirations of Kuwait.

The Nigerian diplomat had visited Kuwait January 27-29 on an official mission.

Last Friday the assembly concluded its four-day special session by adopting a political declaration and global programme of action "to protect mankind from the scourge of drug abuse and illicit trafficking."

In his address before the assembly Abulhasan called on the international community to exert intensified and sincere efforts to combat the problem of drugs which he said is posing dangerous threats on all levels of human life.

King Fahd Bin Abdel Aziz of Saudi Arabia yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed on the occasion of Kuwait's 29th National Day. Radio Riyadh said.

The Kuwaiti embassy in Cairo held a celebration on the occasion of the 29th anniversary of Kuwait's National Day.

Well-wishers were received by the Ambassador Abdulrazzak Al Kandari and a number of embassy officials.

Among the guests who came were Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Atef Sidki, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Esnat Abdel Meguid and Cairo's governor Dr Mahmoud Al Sharaf as well as a number of top Egyptian officials, Arab and foreign diplomats and other prominent members of society.

Bahrain's Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa attended a reception held by Kuwait's Ambassador to Bahrain Faisal Al Hajri on the occasion of Kuwait's 29th National Day.

The reception was attended by senior Bahraini and Kuwaiti officials and ministers.

Kuwait's ambassador to Jordan Suleiman Salem Al Fasam held here last night a big reception ceremony on the occasion of the 29th anniversary of Kuwait's National Day.

The ceremony was attended by chairmen of notables and parliament councils, head of the royal diwan, ministers, political advisor of King Hussein.

senior officials, heads of Arab and Foreign diplomatic missions, prominent Jordanian figures and Kuwaiti community in Jordan.

In Islamabad Kuwaiti Ambassador in Pakistan Qasim Omar Al Yaqout said that Pak-Kuwait friendship will develop at a fast pace.

Talking to journalists at Kuwait's 29th National Day function at the embassy premises he said both the Amir of Kuwait and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan were keen to accelerate the pace of their friendly co-operation.

Yaqout said Pakistan was the back-bone of the Gulf and a great Islamic country "and we look at it as a very important factor in the area."

Roots of the existing friendly bonds, the ambassador said, went into the past because of commonness of faith and culture. This common-ness would help in quicker growth of mutual co-operation in the years to come, he said.

Earlier during conversations with Kuwaiti ambassador at the National Day reception Asif Zardari, the husband of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, expressed similar sentiments.

Zardari, who represented Benazir Bhutto at the reception because she was pre-occupied in Karachi, said people of Pakistan had great respect for the people and the rulers of Kuwait.

The prime minister's husband requested Yaqout to convey hearty congratulations to the government and the people of Kuwait on this auspicious day.

A large number of guests attended the reception. Prominent among those who were present at the glittering reception were chairmen of the Pakistan Senate, the upper house of country's parliament, Wasim Sajjad, Chief Minister of Punjab province Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and President of the Afghan Interim Government Professor Sibghatullah Mujaddadi.

Also present was Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, Pakistan's top-ranking nuclear scientist, who is described in the foreign press as "the maker of the bomb" in the Islamic world.

Another noteworthy guest was Saleh Al Shamri, the Qatari national, who is in Pakistan during the course of his world tour on camel's back. His two camels stood outside the Kuwaiti embassy as he mingled with guests inside.

Members of Pakistan parliament, high ranking civil and military officials of the Pakistan government, foreign envoys based in Islamabad and elite of the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi attended the reception.

Officials said that the number of guests was close to 20,000 despite rainy conditions.

Ambassador Yaqout, his wife Badria and councillor Nasir Al Otaibi greeted the guests as they arrived.

In Tokyo, the Kuwaiti embassy celebrated the 29th National Day, with 500 Arab, foreign and Japanese invitees taking part in the festivities.

In a message to the Japanese people, Kuwait's Ambassador in Tokyo Abdul Aziz Al Sharekh said on this occasion that Kuwait, as an oil-producing country, views Japan as a "reliable friend and a fit partner," indicating that his country shoots for an appropriate share in the Japanese oil market.

Kuwaiti monument unveiled in Sharjah

SHARJAH, Feb 26, (Kuna): Visiting Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, the Kuwaiti Minister of Interior, on Sunday evening unveiled the Kuwait monument in Sharjah.

The monument was placed in the centre of the 15,000 square metre Kuwait Square, Sharjah's busiest area.

In an inauguration speech, Sheikh Salem said he was honoured by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed who deputed him to attend this celebration.

He added that the relations began in 1953 when the people and ruler of Sharjah consulted Kuwait to open a number of schools.

"Such thinking indicates a true awareness by Sheikh Sultan at the time," Sheikh Salem said, noting that Kuwait immediately responded to the calls on basis of a "One Gulf and Family."

"We are one family, Kuwait is our border in the north, while Sharjah is our south," Sheikh Salem said.

Appreciation

Sheikh Salem praised the efforts of the Ruler of Sharjah in spreading education and health in the emirate which along with five other countries forms the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

He also conveyed greetings and appreciation of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait and His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister and the People of Kuwait for the day which corresponds with the 29th National Day of Kuwait.

For his part, head of Sharjah Municipality Obeid Al Tmahi congratulated His Highness the Amir and the people of Kuwait on the occasion of the 29th National Day, expressing many happy returns.

The official noted that the monument expresses an appreciation of the UAE people in general and the people of Sharjah in particular to Kuwait's contributions in health, education and other spheres.

Later Sheikh Salem and Sheikh Sultan unveiled the monument off Safat Square and laid down the cornerstone of a school to be named after late Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah.

A new school building named after the late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem was also unveiled.

Hospital in Sudan

KHARTOUM, Feb 26, (Kuna): It was reported here Saturday that Kuwait will extend medical and technical assistance for the Sudanese government and a Sudanese hospital.

Sudan News Agency (Suna) said the disclosure was made by Sudanese Minister of Health and Social Welfare Mohamed Shaker Al Siraj in a meeting with officials at the ministry.

According to the minister, who returned from a visit to Kuwait recently, Kuwait will provide assistance for a children's hospital and another assistance for the government of Sudan.

The minister also said a programme for training technical and medical personnel will be launched between Kuwait and Sudan in addition to Kuwaiti participation in covering needs of Sudan in basic medicines.



PIA reception

Pakistan International Airlines director of marketing, M. Aslam Khan cuts a cake along with Mrs. Manzoor Hassan to mark the opening of PIA's new offices at Al Rashid Building while PIA manager, (Kuwait) Manzoor Hassan and other guests look on.

The reception was held at the Meridian Hotel recently to mark the occasion. Aslam Khan especially flew in to Kuwait to attend the reception.

No Aids Collins holds talks with Saudi counterpart

MEMBER of the national Anti-Aids Committee Lt Col Zuhair Rasmi categorically denied that any cases of Aids have been discovered among military staff of the Defence Ministry.

He clarified that among the 7,000 tests of Aids that had been conducted on staff of the defence and interior ministries, not a single case of the virus has been found.

The official revealed that random tests for the Aids virus will be conducted on workers at the defence and interior ministries. Further, he disclosed that tests are mandatory for all conscripts, cadets of the military academy and officers or soldiers selected for overseas training.

Rasmi supported a proposal recommending the undertaking of a comprehensive survey on Aids at all units of Kuwait Army in co-ordination with the Ministry of Public Health.

Collins, who is also president-in-office of the EEC Council of Ministers, will chair the European side.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. Collins has already visited Bahrain as well in preparation for the Oman meetings.

Kuwait to attend civilisation meet in KL

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 26, (Kuna): Islamic scholars from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Sudan, the United States, Britain, Indonesia, India and Malaysia will be among participants in an international Conference of Islamic Civilisation to be held here in June.

The conference to be held for the first time in Malaysia will be opened by the Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The five-day meeting, beginning on June 24 is in conjunction with a three-month long exposition on the theme "World of Islamic Civilisation 1990" at the Islamic Centre here from June 1 to Aug 31.

The expo and conference are jointly organised by the culture and tourism ministry, the Islamic affairs department of the prime minister's department and Berita Harian, a leading Malay daily.

A spokesman for the organising committee told Kuna today the paramount ruler, the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong will open the expo.

He said the aim of the expo is to create an awareness of the civilisation of the Islamic world through artifacts of its history, arts and culture, and to integrate Islamic values into society.

The expo will feature over 200 pieces of ancient writings from the Quran inscribed on goat hide and some 2,000 copies of ancient Islamic manuscripts covering a variety of subjects from Asia.

There will also be a display of ancient instruments invented by Muslim scholars for astrology, scientific and medical studies, including the 17th century Moghul bronze celestial sphere belonging to the Delhi sultanate.

Islamic handicraft, musical instruments, currency and clothes through the ages will also be displayed, he added.

On the conference, the spokesman said sixteen papers will be presented by Islamic scholars for discussions.

Among the scholars are Dr Ishaq Farhan from Jordan, Dr Ali Ashraf from Britain, Dr Fathi Osman from the US, Gulzar Haider from Canada and Dr Osman Bakar from Malaysia.

Wireless misuse may lead to legal action

Amateurs invited to join society

THE Kuwait Wireless Amateurs Society was established in 1980 and is recognised by international organisations, according to Ahmad Al Jassem, secretary of the Kuwaiti society.

The official urged members of the society not to misuse the wireless and said that the society welcomes members of its training courses held to demonstrate the methodologies of proper use of these apparatuses.

He said that there are 200 persons in

Kuwait who are licenced to practice this hobby, but only 105 are members of the society. He advised all amateurs in Kuwait to join the society in order to obtain guidance in the proper usage of the wireless so as to avoid any legal actions through ignorance or improper use.

Jassem said that there are seven million amateurs of this hobby in the world and most of them speak English. These amateurs are divided into three areas: covering Europe, most of Africa and Mid-

dle East in Asia (45 countries) and those covering North and South America and those that cover the rest of Asia, Australia and Japan.

The official said that international associations of wireless amateurs include all similar societies in the world. There are only ten societies in the Arab countries and nine of them are affiliated to the Arab Federation for Wireless Amateurs which are: Jordan, Bahrain, Djibouti, Algeria, Oman, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and

Morocco. Iraq will be the tenth country to join, he said.

Wireless amateurs have 13 mobile satellites prior to launching the Arabsat. A new French satellite has been launched for wireless amateurs recently. Amateurs can speak with any other member in any country of the world by the CB as there are special channels and waves for amateurs which cannot be engaged by any other broadcast or commercial transmission station, Jassem said.

Advanced facilities for Kuwait's coast guards

Islands secure: Omar

THE director of the Coast Guards Department at the Ministry of Interior Col. Ghazi Al Omar has said that special coast guards units at the Kuwaiti islands will be assigned additional responsibilities in the future and provided with more advanced facilities.

He told a local daily that all Kuwaiti islands were open to visitors except those officially advertised as being under the supervision of the Ministry of Defence. He said that Qaruh, Kubar and Uja Al Maradim were open to visitors, overnight campers, however no fishermen were allowed to remain at sea around these islands after sunset.

He said as to the island of Oha, day-visits are permitted but staying overnight is disallowed, as the island had only off late been received from the Defence Ministry and plans remained to be carried out on the island regarding existing chalets, in the best interest of the country.

He said that the department had sent a number of coast guards officers for training in Egypt and that the study course would lead to a BSc in naval sciences, adding that the department is looking forward to the graduation of a new batch of officers next year.

Meanwhile, the assistant director of the department Major Majed Al Bajjan said that the Kuwaiti islands formed the security fence around the country and were the first defence line. He said that the duties and responsibilities entrusted to the department were constantly growing due to various considerations pertaining to security and safety in the region.

He stressed the need for tourism exploitation of the islands in Kuwait and consequently the need for special landscaping services by the Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Authority, and cleaning services by Kuwait Municipality. He added that the department hopes that these islands would be fully secured in the next national five-year plan.

Major Abdullah Naser Abal Khalil, chief of sea operations, said the coast guards operations were the basic duty of the department in protecting Kuwaiti islands.

He stressed the existing co-ordination between the naval forces and the department in this field in and outside Kuwaiti territorial waters, adding that there are floating platforms belonging to the department which would be positioned as required for security reasons.

Joint venture Egypt Air, KAC for co-op talks

KUWAIT, Feb. 26, (Kuna): A Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) delegation headed by board chairman Ahmed Al Mishari left for Egypt today to hold talks with officials of Egypt Air concerning co-operation in all aspects.

Mishari said before his departure that the Cairo talks would complete discussions held previously with his Egypt Air counterpart Mohammed Fahim Rayan when he visited KAC headquarters.

Mishari clarified that the talks will be on the efforts and studies being made by KAC and Egypt Air in establishing a joint company for chartered flights and air taxis.

KAC chairman added that summer flights which are greatly crowded on the Cairo-Kuwait route, will also be discussed as well as joint co-operation between the two airlines in their East, Japan and Australia routes.

Different aspects of co-operation between the two airlines are to be discussed in particular and co-operation with other Arab airlines in general are also to be discussed, Mishari pointed out.

3rd revision of masterplan

KUWAIT Municipality is now studying the third revision of the Site Masterplan which encompasses the latest social and economic developments in the country and are foreseen to address developments in the state during the next two decades.

The study includes the national natural plan, basic scheme for civilised areas, local plans for Kuwait City and distribution of services centres and transportation networks until the year 2010.

The revision is based on the following:

- Analysing the first and second revisions of the masterplan, along with studies of other plans, structure of social and economic development of the state in relation to basic trends between planning and marketing.

- Analysing population mix and recommending economic considerations in relation to estimation of manpower and population for 1995, 2000 and 2010.

Co-op talk

THE chairman of the Union of Co-operative Societies, Saad Al Sawaraj has said that the union was established in 1971 to organise the co-operative movement and to achieve economic, social and human ambitions.

Co-operative societies have contributed to developing the local social and economic life through several channels such as supporting national industries by according priority to these indigenous products. Further, co-operatives have resisted attempts to hike prices of commodities and have brought about the much sought after equality between consumers and merchants.



King Hussein of Jordan arrived in Kuwait yesterday. H.H. the Amir received Hussein at the airport.

Audit checks

Exemption causing financial errors, says ex-chairman

EXEMPTING some institutions from audits has caused a lot of financial errors and it has become essential to subject all authorities to financial checks, Salem Al Mudhaf, ex-chairman of Kuwait's Audit Bureau was quoted as saying.

Medhaf said that the institutional system of the country is not independent and is imposing necessary controls on revenues and expenditures, and added that rapid economic changes make it mandatory for such controls to be exercised.

He went on to explain that there are two kinds of control: pre-control and subsequent follow-up, denying that pre-control impeded activities of the authorities concerned. He reiterated that the decision exempting some authorities from pre-control system should be revised

and made to encompass all entities.

He denied allegations that the bureau impedes the progress of institutions and said that the bureau is not a fault finder, but aims at preserving public interests by utilising public funds in accordance with preset conditions.

He said that the official development, the official recalled a speech made by HH the Crown Prince and Premier on the occasion of the start of the last decade of the current century, where HH confirmed that we are passing through a historical state and all of us should work together for the development of Kuwait.

He commented that the Audit Bureau which had been established in 1964 is long overdue for revision based on a qualitative shift. He cited the example of

chapter four of the Bureau Law and Charter which deals with legal issues related to the public employees, but said that this chapter has not been applied and its tests remained confused.

Meanwhile, the official called for expanding the control base to be practised by the bureau to cover the co-operative societies and also recommended that the bureau should examine the workings of private companies.

Further, Mudhaf said that the bureau should practise its role of the procurement process made by the government authorities to ensure that they abide by the tendering procedures for purchase of materials.

The ex-official ascertained that the bureau audits the investment accounts of government, including profits and loss accounts and programmes budgets.



KHC presentation to Sheikh Fahd

Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed, chairman of Kuwait Football Association received Faisal Al Mannai, vice president of finance & administration, who on behalf of Kuwait Hotels Company and its hotels presented a gift to Sheikh Fahd in appreciation of his valuable efforts during the Peace and Friendship Championship which achieved great success and world athletic reputation.

Mannai was accompanied by Abdulaziz Al Wazzan, corporate director — administration and Yousef Al Ghabra, public relations manager.

Photographed from right to left are Sheikh Fahd, Mannai, Ghabra and Wazzan.

Role of agriculture limited: statistics

THE Ministry of Planning's annual statistics indicate that local agricultural sector as an entity plays only a limited role in contributing to the national economy.

Statistics attributed this low level of support to the poor fertility of soil, scarcity of irrigation water, unsuitable weather conditions and lack of skilled agricultural manpower. However, sources said that Kuwait has gradually begun to overcome some of these difficulties by utilising greenhouses to protect plants from adverse weather conditions and conducting feasibility studies to utilise water supply from the Shatt Al Arab of Iraq as well as recycling sewage water.

Statistics indicated some important figures that explain the development of the agricultural sector in the country which depict a sharp increase in the agricultural areas during the last ten years. Further, the area of local farms increased from 17 million square metres in 1981 to 44 million square metres in 1986. Afforested area has also amounted to 22 million square metres in 1986.

Statistics further indicated that the state has undertaken comprehensive plans to develop fish and animal wealth. However, Kuwait still imports fish, the value of which amounted to KD7,359,715 in 1988.

Meanwhile, it is reported that Kuwait is expected to make a noticeable increase in the level of vegetable production — particularly, since 95 per cent of leafy vegetables are produced at the Kuwait farms in Abdali and Wafr.

Sources told Seyassah that the concentration during the coming period would be on vegetables, such as tomatoes and eggplants and other consumer vegetables. It added that recommendations have been provided to these farms on methods to develop their produce.

The sources said that the greenhouses and soil-less agriculture techniques have been introduced to contribute to the efforts to counteract seasonal agriculture. The Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Authority have provided farmers with all needed assistance to develop their farms due to their inherent national importance.

Feed lines ensure power

THE deputy director of public relations department at the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW), Fawzi Al Mudhaf was quoted as saying that the designs of the electrical networks of the country have been designed to take into account the needs of vital public utilities.

In an interview with a local daily, the officials said that each main and subsidiary power station had been provided with three feeding lines which would ensure the proper functioning of these stations in any given circumstances.

Mudhaf said that the ministry has achieved a increase in the production of brackish water and had installed the reverse osmosis apparatuses to meet the country's increasing demands.

Plans aimed at connecting GCC countries in a unified electrical network are currently under way and the ministry is paying special emphasis to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity and water.

Jassar returns

CAIRO, Feb. 26, (Kuna): Kuwaiti's Awqaf (endowments) and Islamic Affairs Minister Khaled Ahmad Al Jassar returned home at the conclusion of a five-day visit to Egypt during which he attended meetings of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs.

He also attended the Egyptian Endowment Ministry's celebrations on the reopening of the historic Al Fatah Mosque.

Jassar had talks with his Islamic counterparts attending the conference on means of bolstering Kuwait's relations with their countries in religious fields.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hospital inauguration

KUWAIT, Feb. 26, (Kuna): HH the Amir and visiting King Hussein of Jordan will preside tomorrow the inauguration ceremony of Armed Forces Hospital at 9:30 am.

Premier's banquet

KUWAIT, Feb. 26, (Kuna): HH Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah hosted a dinner banquet this evening on the occasion of Kuwait's 29th National Day at Bayan Palace.

Invitations were extended to sheikhs, ministers, governors, former ministers, former parliament speakers and members, senior officials, chairmen and members of the chamber of commerce and industry, members of specialised councils, governors councils, a number of private personalities and mukhtars.

Board chairmen of national institutions and public shareholding companies, chief editors of local dailies, heads of sports federations and unions, non-profit societies and co-ops were also invited.

Invitations were also extended to heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Kuwait.

Libyan message

KUWAIT, Feb. 26, (Kuna): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah today received a message from Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi addressed to HH the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed.

The message was conveyed by Libyan Ambassador to Kuwait Hassan Al Shawish during a meeting with Sheikh Sabah today at the Foreign Ministry.

Sheikh Sabah told reporters that the message dealt with the flood of Soviet Jews into occupied Palestine and its dangerous consequences on the Palestinian cause as well as the Palestinian people's future.

He added that Khaddafi called for importance of unifying Arab efforts to confront such threats.

3 exhibitions to open

KUWAIT, Feb. 26, (Kuna): Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad, in his capacity as chairman of the permanent committee for national celebrations, is to open tomorrow three exhibitions at Kuwait National Museum.

The Kuwaiti relics, Amateur Relics Collections and Formative Arts Exhibitions are to be opened in line with the country's celebrations of its 29th National Day.

Alms giving project

KUWAIT, Feb. 26, (Kuna): The chairman of the main committee of almsgiving and charities in the Revival of Islamic Heritage Society Sheikh Abdul Jaber Salem today affirmed that the project of catering for poor families in Kuwait will cover 6,000 families, 3,125 orphans and widows.

He said the project allows the public to support the needy families in a way that does not hurt their dignity.

He explained that the system gives the opportunity for the donors to support a certain family through monthly deductions between 30 to 50 dinars.

Sheikh Salem noted that the donor may help or look after a special family after informing one of our sub-committees.

He said that the committee accepts deductions starting with one dinar only as general assistance to support the project.

On the goals of the project, Sheikh Salem said "we are working to achieve cohesion among the different layers of the Muslim society without looking to nationality or ethnic backgrounds".

Belgian envoy received

KUWAIT, Feb. 26, (Kuna): President of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdul Aziz Hamad Al Saqr today received Belgian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Marcel Van Roey.

They discussed bilateral commercial relations between Kuwait and Belgium and means of boosting them.

The ambassador was received ten days ago by Kuwait Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Abdul Razak Al Khaled for similar discussions.

Belgian Crown Prince Albert is to head an economic delegation, on a visit to Kuwait in the period March 9-12, which groups the country's foreign trade minister. Prince Albert will not be visiting Kuwait in his capacity as crown prince, however.

Thais seek custody of Iraqi held in Philippines

MANILA, Feb. 26, (Reuters): Thai police investigating the murder of three Saudi Arabian diplomats in Bangkok held talks with Philippine officials today on the possible deportation of an Iraqi detained in Manila.

Immigration chief Andrea Domingo said the Thai authorities wanted to question Mustafa Mohammad about his possible links with the killers "but negotiations are still going on."

Major-General Thawlaw Ker-ted of the Thai National Police met Domingo today to discuss

the possibility of Mohammad's deportation to Thailand, Domingo said.

Mohammad, 37, of Baghdad, was arrested in Manila last Thursday on suspicion of being a member of a fake passport ring that allegedly supplied travel documents to the gunmen who killed the Saudi diplomats on February 1.

Domingo said his office had filed deportation charges against the Iraqi for working without a permit.

Bilateral relations strong: Saleh

KUWAIT, Feb. 26, (Kuna): North Yemen President Ali Abdallah Saleh has expressed optimism toward re-unifying the two Yemens, which were torn apart more than two decades ago, "and we can say that after the Aden and Sanaa meetings, we have overcome a lot of difficulties (hindering unification)."

On why South Yemen has yet to join the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC), President Saleh said the membership at the council is open and that it will be looked into by the four founding members.

The ACC groups Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen.

Speaking in an interview to "Al Yaqa" magazine, he indicated that despite its short age, the council realised great feats.

On Kuwaiti-Yemeni relations, Saleh described them as "firm and strong" and said that Kuwait has played a vital part in sending economic aid to his country.

Relating to current celebrations of Kuwait's 29th National Day, the Yemeni president expressed his congratulations to HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier and the Kuwaiti people and government on this occasion.

On the Palestinian dilemma, he lashed out at Israel for refusing all solutions so far, "but despite that, hopes are attached to the Palestinian uprising and the international community to adopt more positive stances aimed at giving the Palestinian people its full right to self-determination."

Commenting on Sanaa's relations with Tehran, President Saleh said that his country has great hopes to realising peace between Iraq and Iran and noted that Iranian-Yemeni relations are based on mutual respect, good neighbourliness and non-interference in internal affairs.

Saleh left Saudi Arabia yesterday following a short visit, Radio Riyadh said.

Speaking to reporters, Saleh said he briefed King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz with the outcome of his talks in the United States and France, as well as results and resolutions reached during the Arab Co-operation Council's summit which concluded in Amman the day before.

King Fahd and Saleh also reviewed the steps taken towards the unity of both Yemens as well as Saudi-Yemeni relations in general, Saleh said, noting that points of view were identical.

The Yemeni-Saudi relations will observe development in the near future under auspices of King Fahd, Saleh added, describing the Yemeni-Saudi relations as "undistinguished and special."



Whispering through a cage

Ahmed Tawfiq Abdel-Fattah, chairman of Al Rayan Islamic investment Company, listens to his sister Hasmia, dressed in a complete veil, as she whispers through a Cairo State Security cage at the beginning of his trial. He, along with 12 other company employees, are standing trial on charges of fraud and illegal transactions. (Reuters wirephoto)

Renewed war appears inevitable Beirut fighting dies down

BEIRUT, Feb. 26, (Agencies): Fighting between warring Christian forces in Lebanon has subsided for the moment but a renewed war appears inevitable with the two foes unable to settle their differences through negotiation, political sources said.

Security sources said two militiamen of the Lebanese Forces (LF) were killed in mortar, rocket-propelled grenade and heavy machine-gun exchanges with troops loyal to General Michel Aoun yesterday. Six civilians were also wounded.

Sunday's battles were the worst breach yet in an eight-day-old ceasefire between the rival armies, who have fought since January 31 for control of the 810 sq km (310 sq miles) Christian enclave.

The fighting undermined the failure of Christian mediators to make any headway towards peace in the nearly month-long war.

In the absence of a comprehensive political settlement, political sources predicted a major flare-up in the war between Aoun's troops and Samir Geagea's LF militia soon.

"The big explosion is inevitable. It is a battle of ego between Aoun and Geagea. None of them can back down. Each will have to fight for his own survival," one senior Christian politician said.

He said the fighting could drag on "for weeks if not months."

Western diplomats also said they believed the ceasefire could not last, noting that freezing the status quo would represent a major political defeat for Aoun, who controls only one third of the enclave.

But they said that if the meeting resumed at full intensity, there would not be much left standing for the victor.

Father Boulos Naaman, a member of the three-man Christian mediation committee, said his team "will not get fed up, despite the difficulties we are facing."

His remark appeared to be a direct response to Aoun, who said in a news conference on Thursday, "I am letting the mediators try and try until they get fed up. Then they will come to me and say they have given up. I don't give up the negotiations with Geagea much chance."

"We will not give up," said Shaker Abu Sodein, another member of the committee.

"We are the thin thread that still connects the population. We'll maintain our mission regardless of the difficulties because we do not want the population partitioned," he added.

Meanwhile, the leftist newspaper As Safir said an unnamed representative of Syrian-backed President Elias Hiriawi met Geagea in East Beirut and obtained from him a

"written pledge to accept bringing East Beirut under government control" if Hiriawi's government intervened to stop the intra-Christian showdown.

Hiriawi has threatened to resign if he was not allowed by foreign capitals, concerned in the Lebanese crisis, to put an end to the dispute between Aoun and Geagea in East Beirut, a parliamentary source said today.

Deputy Butros Harb, quoted by daily As Safir published here today said that President Hiriawi threatened to give up his post if the war between the Christian factions was not totally terminated or if he is not given the green light by the concerned foreign powers to stop the fighting.

Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss said the Lebanese government alone is incapable of rescuing embattled East Beirut.

In an interview with a Lebanese daily published today, Al Hoss ruled out his stepping down at this critical time, pointing out the proposed tour by him and Hiriawi would cover the capitals of the Arab tripartite committee countries, where they were scheduled to meet with the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria to discuss different means of providing political and military aid to Lebanon's legitimacy.

Israel exploiting Jewish influx to get US aid

CAIRO, Feb. 26, (Agencies): Soviet ambassador to Egypt Gennady Zhuravlev accused Israel of using the migration of Soviet Jews to pressure the United States into giving it more financial aid.

"I see the tension is not caused by the Soviet Union's policy, but by Israeli political and media campaigns," Zhuravlev said in a letter published today in the semi-official Al Ahram newspaper.

He defended his country's new migration policy against mounting Arab criticism that it was causing regional tensions and said it was too early to know how many Jews would leave the Soviet Union.

"Israeli authorities, by intentionally blowing up the number of expected migrants, are seeking to pressure the United States and Western states

into increasing their financial aid to Israel," Zhuravlev wrote.

Some of the Soviet Jews who are arriving in Israel at the rate of 4,000 to 5,000 a month have settled in the Israeli-ruled West Bank and Gaza Strip, which is home to 1.7 million Palestinians.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation has asked the Soviet Union to encourage Soviet Jews to emigrate to countries other than Israel, a PLO official said today.

About Latif Abu Hijleh, director-general of the PLO's political department, said it was also suggested that Soviet Jews spend more time in other countries while they decide whether to go to Israel.

"Let there be stations for the Soviet Jews before reaching Israel, as some of them might not like to emigrate to Israel and those should be

given a chance to freely decide their destination," Abu Hijleh told the Associated Press.

On Sunday Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen said they held the superpowers responsible for the mass migration, saying it was a flagrant violation of international law and the basic human rights of Palestinians.

They branded the migration as an "open aggression against the rights of the Palestinian people."

And in a full-page statement in an Egyptian newspaper, 88 prominent writers, journalists, actors, doctors and Muslim fundamentalists put aside their political differences to lay blame at the feet of the superpowers.

"It is an integrated invasion plan... its aim is to throw Arabs out of their lands," said the

statement, listing the names of public figures, including opposition party members.

"There is compulsory action by the superpowers... to uproot them (Arabs) and erase their existence forever, to wrench out of humanity's memories the holy land where prophets... were born."

Israel, Zhuravlev said, had estimated that it would need \$60,000 to resettle each Soviet Jew. He said Israel, the "major recipient of US aid in the Middle East, was making the most of the migrations to serve its own 'selfish intentions'."

"The problem of resettlement in the Arab occupied lands is a political game," Zhuravlev said. "Perhaps it was planned to get more concessions from the Palestinians in future talks."

Israelis bow to Baker move

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb. 26, (Reuters): Vice-Premier Shimon Peres today called US proposals for Israel-Palestinian peace talks "totally acceptable" and political sources said Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was also leaning towards acceptance.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, of Peres' dovish Labour Party, added to pressure on Shamir by saying it was time to take a first step towards peace with Palestinians after 26 months of revolt in the occupied territories.

The prime minister, his rightist Likud Party badly split over the peace issue, declined to say if he would accept proposals given by Secretary of State James Baker to Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens in Washington last Friday.

But political sources said that in remarks to Parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee he had played down differences on Palestinian representation, signalling that he was likely to accept Baker's ideas.

Peres told visiting US Jewish leaders: "What Mr Baker suggested to Mr Arens... is totally acceptable to us. We don't need to be urged or pushed or demanded. We ourselves want to build a dialogue with our Palestinian neighbours."

Terror let loose by Israeli troops

78 Gaza Palestinians hurt in violent clashes

GAZA, Feb. 26, (Agencies): Israeli troops backed by a tear-gas-spraying helicopter shot and wounded at least 78 Palestinians in the occupied Gaza strip today in some of the most violent clashes in months, doctors said.

Hospital and clinic workers said at least 65 of those wounded were from Rafah refugee camp, a flashpoint of unrest in the 26-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

The clashes began at dawn when residents of the teeming camp on the border with Egypt took to the streets to protest at the killing of a 20-year-old resident by troops last night.

The army tried to put down the protest with gunfire and tear-gas and clamped a curfew on the camp and surrounding areas, Rafah residents said.

But protesters defied the curfew and clashes raged for hours. The army called in border police reinforcements and dropped tear-gas canisters from a helicopter, the residents said.

Hospital and clinic workers said they treated 100 Palestinians for tear-gas inhalation.

The clashes started when troops tried to prevent 1,000 residents from holding a wake for Wa'el Jamil Al Hams, who was shot by troops yesterday and died later in hospital.

The army also used a gravel-spraying cannon to disperse demonstrators.

Dozens gathered outside Al Hams' home and threw stones as troops tried to impose a curfew, Arab witnesses said. Soldiers reportedly responded by opening fire and were joined by troops who shot tear-gas from helicopters.

At least 20 people injured with bullets were treated at Nasser Hospital in nearby Khan Yunis, among them two 12-year-old boys, hospital reports said.

After wounded were brought in, groups of soldiers entered Nasser Hospital, seeking out unrest suspects and chasing some down hallways, a hospital official said by telephone, speaking on condition of anonymity.

At least 13 people were wounded in other Gaza areas today including several children and a man of 60 from Gaza City who

was partly paralysed when shot in the head with a rubber-coated metal bullet.

The casualties today brought to at least 101 the number of people wounded by gunfire in the Gaza Strip in two days.

Earlier this month, troops killed four people and wounded more than 130 in a week after reports that former Rafah residents took part in an attack on Israeli tourists in Egypt.

Most of the casualties were in Rafah.

In recent months, Rafah has seen a rash of attacks by Palestinian nationalists on fellow Arabs who they suspect of collaborating with Israel.

At least 625 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli troops or civilians in the uprising that began in December 1987.

Another 186 have been killed by other Arabs as suspected collaborators or moral deviants and 44 Jews have died.

Military sources said at least 10 people were wounded in disturbances in Rafah. They said the army only counted as wounded those who were admitted to hospital.

Poland mends fences with Israel

WARSAW, Feb. 26, (Reuters): Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens arrived in Poland today to renew diplomatic ties severed in 1967.

"The Polish government today admits its breaking of ties with Israel was a serious mistake," the government daily Rzeczpospolita said in a commentary entitled "Poland apologises to Israel."

It said Warsaw planned to make amends for a 1968 anti-semitic purge, which forced some 30,000 Jews to emigrate, by allowing them to return and restoring their Polish citizenship.

The two countries are expected to sign an agreement tomorrow restoring full diplomatic relations. This will lead to an exchange of ambassadors and the elevation of low-level diplomatic missions to embassy status.

Poland and other Soviet bloc states, except Romania, followed Moscow's lead in severing relations with Israel during the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Warsaw daily Zycie Warszawy said "hostilities" with Israel had harmed Poland's interests, a reference to Jewish-led economic boycotts and media attacks in response to the purge.

It quoted Mordcheai Palzur, Israel's diplomatic representative in Warsaw, as saying a group of Israeli industrialists was accompanying Arens "not for sentimental reasons, but because they see (in Poland) the possibility of economic co-operation and investment."

Rafah was declared a closed military zone.

Soldiers also destroyed the homes of three Palestinians accused of killing an alleged collaborator, the army said. It said a fourth home was sealed because one of its residents was suspected of fire bomb attacks.

The homes destroyed were in the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahia and the sealed house is in the West Bank town of Sinjil near Ramallah. The Gazans were accused of torturing to death a suspected collaborator named Youssef Al Abdallah Ghaban.

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Najib seeks peace talks

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 26, (Reuters): Afghan President Najibullah said yesterday all political forces in his country must join peace talks to end the 11-year-old war there, Kabul Radio reported.

He told Parliament that the Afghan people and the world knew there could be no military solution to the conflict.

"Only political means can end the Afghan people's pains and sufferings," the broadcast, monitored in Islamabad, quoted him.

"Negotiations between the leaders of all Afghan forces can terminate war and provide peace," he added.

In the past Western-backed rebels have rejected all peace offers by Najibullah's Soviet-supported government, vowing to fight on until they establish an Islamic government of their own.

On February 14, the eve of the first anniversary of the Soviet troop pullout from Afghanistan, Najibullah renewed his offer for a ceasefire.

Mubarak receives Benazir's message

CAIRO, Feb. 26, (Kuna): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has received a message from Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The message, whose contents were not disclosed, was delivered by Pakistan Religious and Minorities Affairs Minister Khan Bahadur during a meeting with President Mubarak.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Bus attack slows Syria-Egypt moves: Egyptian suspicion that Damascus-based Palestinians were involved in the killing in Egypt of nine Israelis on a tour bus has slowed rapprochement with Syria, diplomats said on Monday.

Cairo has made no official statement on the progress of its inquiry but is keeping Israel briefed on the hunt for the gunmen who carried out the February 4 attack.

An Israeli diplomat in Cairo said: "The investigation is pointing towards Damascus-based (radical) Palestinians."

Arab diplomats said Egypt appeared to have put off a first summit between President Hosni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad because of alleged links between the attackers and Palestinian radical groups in Damascus. (Reuters)

Turkish citizen released: A Turkish citizen who was kidnapped by unknown gunmen last Wednesday in the Syrian-policed Muslim sector of the Lebanese capital was set free after three days in captivity, police said today.

Police said Mehmet Sahin, who was snatched from his house in the Muslim West Beirut neighbourhood of Mazraa by armed men, was freed on Saturday.

The Turk, who said he was interrogated by hooded people, could not identify his kidnappers, the sources said. Sahin worked as a janitor at the Turkish embassy, which is located in the Christian enclave. (UPI)

Anti-Semitism increases: Increasingly open acts of anti-Semitism and Jewish fears of pogroms are spurring a wave of immigration to Israel by hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews.

Many immigrants arriving in Israel speak of their fears, even though most say they have not witnessed anti-Semitic acts or been personally threatened. (AP)

Say says her hopes raised: The sister of a US journalist kidnapped five years ago in Lebanon said on Monday she was heartened by Syria's offer of help in her campaign for his release.

"Instead of leaving (the Middle East) with a heavy heart like I always do, I feel the burden has been lifted," said Peggy Say, whose brother Terry Anderson is one of 17 Westerners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon. (Reuters)

\$1 billion aid to PLO: Saudi Arabia has channeled nearly \$1 billion in aid to the PLO since 1979, senior PLO figure Rafiq Al Natsheh said on Monday.

He said the oil-rich kingdom paid \$850 million to the PLO under a \$3 billion aid package for Syria, Jordan and the PLO agreed at an Arab summit in 1979 after Egypt signed a peace treaty with Israel.

Amnesty accused: A semi-official Moroccan newspaper has accused Amnesty International of distortion and subversion in alleging persistent human rights violations in Morocco.

In a front-page editorial on Sunday headlined "Amnesty Int. — an organisation of subversion and destabilisation," Le Matin Du Sahara asked the London-based group who was financing what it called an attack on Morocco "by occult and pernicious forces."

The editorial, signed by Minister of State Ahmed Alaoui, who is editor of the newspaper and an adviser to King Hassan, said Amnesty's report was "based on lies and falsification." (Reuters)

Shamir's media adviser Avi Pazner

told the prime minister he had told the parliamentary committee that the policy-making inner cabinet would decide within a few days on "a minor technical step" towards elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Participants in the closed-door meeting quoted Shamir as stressing Israel would not negotiate with the PLO or make "the slightest concession on Jerusalem and no concession to the Arab camp whose minimum (demand) is a Palestinian state."

Baker told Arens in tough talks last Friday it was high time Israel acted to advance its own peace initiative.

Palestinian sources said Washington had made progress in winning acceptance from Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation for formal Palestinian representation, increasing pressure on Israel.

Egypt, as host, would announce the Palestinian delegation with PLO approval.

Peres' Labour Party last week gave Shamir two weeks to make the necessary concessions to clear the way for peace talks.

But he has been torn by conflicting pressures, concerned both to hold his fractious government together and restore unity in his party.

Likud hardliners, led by strongman Ariel Sharon who walked out of the government last week, oppose any concession on either deportees or East Jerusalem.



Drmovsek in Cairo

Egyptian President Mubarak (left) and Yugoslav President Jovanovic review the guard of honour at Kuba palace in Cairo. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tunisia's vocal fundamentalist detained after unrest

TUNIS, Feb. 26, (Reuters): Police detained the spokesman for Tunisia's Islamic movement today after he accused the government of violent repression.

Ali Laaridh of the Nahdha (renaissance) Movement was picked up from his home at 2 am (0100 GMT) and taken to the Ministry of Interior for questioning, his colleagues said.

Ministry officials were not available to comment.

In a statement on Friday, Laaridh said the handling of unrest by Islamist students "shows that the government has chosen the logic of violence by adopting police methods to treat the legitimate demands of the popular masses."

The authorities detained 583 students last week after the Islamists-dominated Tunisian General Students' Union organised sit-ins at 10 university

buildings. At least 283 of the students detained have been drafted into the army.

Laaridh's statement said: "The Nahdha movement recalls that the use of repression... in treating problems is bound to fail and constitutes a major cause of the crisis facing the country."

It is Laaridh's second spell in detention since he was appointed late last year as spokesman for the movement which does not have official recognition.

On the first occasion, he was released with a warning.

The government says the militant students are a minority trying to drag the majority into conflict with the government and prove the strength of the Islamic movement.

Bekaa valley hotbed of drug traffic

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 26, (Reuters): Israel said that the Bekaa valley in neighbouring Lebanon was a hotbed of drug trafficking and that Syria, which had troops there, bore a responsibility for suppressing the narcotics trade.

"We hope that international focus on this region will result in positive action by the countries in the Middle East," the director of Israel's anti-drug authority, Benny Arad, told a general assembly session on the worldwide narcotics problem.

He said Lebanon, plagued by turmoil, was widely acknowledged as a country in which large areas, especially in the Bekaa valley, were exploited for the production of hashish and heroin smuggled to many parts of the world.

"The countries abutting Lebanon are confronted with the acute problem of substantial drug production contiguous to their borders," he said.

Despite a slight effort at crop eradication, "the Bekaa valley remains a hotbed of flourishing drug traffic," he said.

"Syria, whose troops have a significant presence in the Bekaa valley, bears a particular responsibility in suppressing the drug trade."

Without giving statistics, Arad said Israel's drug problem had become more critical although it had not reached the "depths of despair evident in some other societies."

'Ignorant' Tunisians destroying Hannibal harbour, complains Carthage curator

CARTHAGE, Tunisia, Feb. 26, (AP): A project to drain this legendary port shows "a scandalous contempt for a site sacred to world history" by people who care more about contracts than Carthage, says the chief archeologist of the ancient naval harbour.

Abdelmajid Nabli, responsible for conserving the ruins of ancient Carthage, said "ignorant Tunisians are destroying the harbour from which Hannibal set out in 219 BC on his ill-fated campaign to conquer Rome."

Nabli believes big developers are eyeing the site and that the dredging is just the first

step toward turning the ancient, circular lagoon into a modern marina of luxury yachts and homes for the rich.

But Fethi Nouicer, spokesman for the public Works Ministry in charge of the six-month project, said the drainage was needed after centuries of accumulated mud and garbage created a stagnant pool that breeds mosquitoes, a nuisance and health hazard to local residents.

"It is true that people complained about the mosquitoes," said Nabli, who does not object to the project but to the contractor's crude methods. He negotiated to oversee the delicate operation, "but in the end,

they did what they wanted."

The engineers working on this project are ignorant of the history of Tunisia and the world. They are interested only in achieving their work contract. They are lifting 2,000-year-old foundations stones out of the water with a crane and throwing them in an inextricable jumble on to the edge," Nabli said.

"The whole thing is a tragedy doing irretrievable damage to our national heritage."

Work on the project began in earnest this week. Already, the contractor has levelled the outer edge of the distinctive

circular lagoon with an island in the middle that once served as a naval arsenal. Nabli said ancient Carthaginian ships sailed into the harbour from the open sea and moored on the island for nearly 800 years.

"We are certain that there must be some Carthaginian ships sunk into the mud at the bottom, and, in case, myriads of objects priceless to archeology must lie there," he said.

The entire harbour was much as the Carthaginians left it 1,800 years ago. But in the last few days a footbridge leading to the island has been knocked down.

Egyptian fishing boats released

CAIRO, Feb. 26, (AP): Libya released three Egyptian fishing boats and 19 fishermen detained six months ago after straying into Libyan waters, the Middle East News Agency said today.

But despite a thaw in unfriendly Egyptian-Libyan relations, the agency said two other boats and 18 crewmen remain imprisoned. It said the returning fishermen expect them to be freed.

The agency said the released boats and their crews arrived last night in the Egyptian Mediterranean port of Mersa Matruh.

US, French share Wolf prize

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb. 26, (Reuters): The Israeli-based Wolf Foundation today awarded its annual physics prize to American David Thouless and Frenchman Pierre-Gilles de Gennes.

The foundation said they won the \$100,000 award for pioneering contributions to the understanding of complex condensed matter systems.

Scottish-born Thouless is a professor at the University of Washington in Seattle where he researches electron behaviour in superconductors, thin wires and magnetic matter.

Gennes is director of a Physics and Chemistry Institute in Paris. His work has helped understand basic concepts in the physics of macromolecular matter and liquid crystals, the foundation said.

Physics is the last prize category for 1990 announced by the Wolf Foundation which also gives awards in mathematics, agriculture, medicine, chemistry and the arts.

EVENTS



Remembering martyrs

The Bangladesh Association, Kuwait, held a cultural function on Feb 24 for the remembrance of the Martyrs of Bengali Language Movement in 1952. The programme consisted of speeches, a poetry session and patriotic songs. The Bangladesh Ambassador K.M. Shehabuddin, who was the chief guest, addressing the audience (top left) while artists both junior and senior (top and bottom right respectively) sang patriotic songs. The function was held at the Bangladesh Embassy premises.



CINEMA

- Al Andalus Arabic film
- Al Salmiyah Hall Booked
- Al Hamra Moonstruck
- Drive-in Arabic film
- Al Firdous Agnee path
- Fahadheel Open Arabic film
- Al Jahra Aadi
- Granada Araro Ariraro
- Solaibikhat Mag Wheels
- Jleeb Accident Swagatham
- Ahmedi Drive-in Arabic film

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.57 am
Zohr	12.01 pm
Asr	3.18 pm
Maghreb	5.46 pm
Isha	7.02 pm

All entries for the What's On Column can be sent by telex (223332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

Robbie 2002

BOWING gracefully to Dr Hans Demol, the Austrian Ambassador who was present to introduce the 4 flutists from Austria performing at Kuwait International on the Feb 24, Robbie 2002 turned to the audience and wished "Ahlan Wasahlan" (Sporting a medieval breast plate and a helmet it expressed gratitude to the co-sponsors, Kuwait Airways and Kuwait Danish Dairy Company. This 1.2 metre tall, 91 kilo loveable creature was originally created 12 years ago for the British Television Quiz Programme 3.2.1, where he starred as "Dusty Bin". There were several "Dusty Bin" robots built as development progressed, finishing with the present identity which can be changed to suit any application and appearing currently as Robbie 2002. It was created by Ian Rowley of Rowley Workshops, Leeds specialising as film and television visual effects designers and the manufacture of "active" props.

The wheel-driven robot responded to questions through a very sophisticated radio control system Maestro Robbie 2002 conducted as the flutists performed, bowed forwards and backwards, rotated at the waist and danced. Being curious at its outsized boots it was discovered that the batteries were concealed there.

Robbie 2002 has completed over 200 appearances and has been to numerous exhibitions in completely different guises, that is, Olympia Earts Court, N.E.C. in Birmingham, East of England Show and the famous Spalding Flower Show. It has performed for the Halifax Building Television with the "Dusty Bin" body fitted, for the Halifax Building Society as a promotional ruse with the "Henry X" body fitted, for Impact Insurance as "Rocky Wool" (a bale of rockwool) for Asda Supermarket Chain as "Kenny the Carrier Dog" for Dunlop as "Max the Trax" and as "Wizbit" for Paul Daniels' magic show. He starred in the film, Coffin, with Denholm Elliott as his manservant "Archie".

Robbie continues to perform for the extremely popular quiz programme 3.2.1, regularly having over 17 million viewers and was sold worldwide. Appearing in a different guise each week, it copied James Bond, an orchestra conductor. A pianist as Boy Bin (Boy George) and even as a Chelsea pensioner complete with red coat, top hat walking a "Garbage" it's pet dog (a robot, too!).

Robbie's exploits have led him to enter the Guinness Book of Records in 1988 as the only robot to have crossed the Humber Bridge (1 1/4 mile), the newest suspension bridge, longer than the San Francisco Golden Gate.

It was entertainment all the way judging by the frequent peals of laughter from the audience. Robbie was here at the Kuwait International hotel on February 24 and 25.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Hobby Centre
FELTCRAFT as a medium for children to make pictures, flowers, toys etc. with felt. This new craft course will start February 27th and March 4th for 6 weeks for children from 8 years old. Tel: 5618847, 5317354.

Seminar
THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration, maybe made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, Tel: 2430826, 2435325.

SOCIAL

11 Annual one act Play Competition
INDIAN Arts Circle announces the 11 Annual One Act Play Competition to be held in May 1990. The competition is open to plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funaitees. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel. 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

Sultan Gallery
INDIAN artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo-exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

ACT'S production of the Skin of Our Teeth at UAS, Salwa, 8 pm, Feb 27, 28 and March 1. Directed by George Plautz. For reservations please call 5725071, 5731782.

Children's variety show
RANGDHANU, a children's variety show which includes a play, will be staged on March 1, Thursday at the Theatre Hall of Kuwait University Law Faculty, Shuwaikh campus, at 6.30 pm. For cards contact 4840759, 4312730, 4312280, 4733106 or 3729425.

Milad mahfil
A Milad mahfil has been organised by the Bandhan Natya Chakra on Feb 28, at 6.30 pm at the Bangladesh Embassy (Khalidya), to pay tribute to the martyrs of the Language Movement. The Ambassador of Bangladesh K.M. Shehabuddin will be the chief guest. All Bangladeshis are cordially invited.

Ladies International League of Kuwait
JOIN us at our next meeting on Monday, March 5, at the Holiday Inn. Doors open at 3.30, programme at 4.30. Hope to see you ladies there. Door charge.

Steps Ballet School
WE announce that we are now the official co-ordinators for the Royal Academy of Dancing, London. We invite any teachers of ballet here in Kuwait to contact us if they would like to enter any of their students for the Royal Academy of Dance Examinations which will be held this coming May 1990. Entries must be in by March 31. Examinations will be held sometime in May for our own students, and outside students of other teachers are welcome to enter their children also. Please contact us on 5386481 from 9 to 12 noon only. In the afternoon 5655216/8 ext 55, from 4 to 7 pm. (the examination session will be conducted by a visiting examiner from the Royal Academy of Dance, London, as is usual for Steps Ballet School RAD candidates.)

Spring Bazaar for Khalifa School
YOU are invited to an exquisite display of handicrafts and gift items on Thursday March 1, 1990 at Kuwait International Hotel's Old Falaika Room from 10 am to 7 pm. Of the products on display are Latin American rugs, silver, souvenirs, brassware, decoupage, ceramics and other works of art. All donations for the Khalifa School will go to the handicapped.

Martyrs' Day: Shatadal Cultural Group
FEB 27: Shatadal Cultural Group will be holding their Martyrs' Day at the Messilah Beach Hotel's Al Amal Hall at 6.30 pm on February 27. The programme includes a seminar, poems recitation and songs.

APPROB essay competition
ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (APPROB) has extended the last date of its essay competition from 15th March to 15th April. The essay competition on the topic "My role in building a better Pakistan" is being held on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Pakistan Resolution.

Pakistani students in the age group of between 12-14 (juniors) and 15-18 (seniors) are invited to write their essays in Urdu or English, which should be between 1,000 to 1,500 words.

Four prizes of KD 100 each (2 each for Urdu and English) will be awarded to the best articles in each group with other consolation prizes for deserving participants.

The panel of judges is headed by Dr M.I. Saleem, Dr. Ali Jaffrey and Abdus Sattar Ghazali. For further details, contact: Tel. APPROB: 2425315 Fax: 5323751.

Bits 'n' Pieces
An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

Amadeus Chamber Orchestra
THE 20 member Amadeus Chamber Orchestra led by Mrs Agnieszka Duczmal will be performing at the Kuwait International Hotel on 4th and 5th March. The Amadeus Chamber Orchestra has performed frequently in Poland and in over 18 European countries as well as in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Brazil. Tickets on sale at: 2530000 ext 4010.

Goan Welfare Society
MARCH 2 - Friday Goan Welfare Society meeting will be held at Ramada Salam Hotel on 2nd March at 10 am followed by a reception at 12 noon for the Goan football team who won the exhibition match recently in Kuwait Goa vs Kerala.

Ash Wednesday (Feb 28, 1990)
The Holy Family Cathedral: Day of fast and abstinence: Holy mass - English - 6.45 am Holy mass - English - 7.30 am Holy mass - English - 4.30 pm Holy mass - English - 5.30 pm Holy mass - English - 6.30 pm Holy mass - English - 8.30 pm

Canadian Women's League
AN invitation is extended to all Canadian women to attend this month's meeting which will be held on Saturday March 3 from 4 to 6 pm in Qurtoba. For more information contact 2563025 or 2563867.

Kuwait Welsh Society
ST. DAVID'S Day buffet-dinner Thursday, 1st March 1990 at Messilah Beach Hotel. For more information ring 3713467, 3912384, 5625316.

Hobby centre
A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making - For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

Craft Centre
MOTHERS are your hands too full with your tots on weekends? Here's a chance for you to relax, and introduce them to creative art. For details contact 5635740, between 9 - 12 noon.

German-speaking Cultural Association
The next coffee morning for German-speaking ladies will be held on Sunday, March 4, 10 am, at the Kuwait International Hotel. Tickets for the forthcoming fashion show will be available. Please make an effort to attend.

Daniella Coffee Morning
The next coffee morning for Danes will take place at the SAS Hotel on Sunday, March 4, at 9 am. For further details call Inge - 3727688 ext 207.

Daniella Desert Rally
The annual family rally for Danes will take place on Friday, March 23. For registration, please call Henrik - Tel: 3727688/92 ext. 246 before Wednesday, March 14.

ics-on-going for all levels of play
including Junior, Ladies' and Adult sessions with Frank Novak - an experienced Canadian coach and tennis professional. Classes total 4 weeks in length and meet twice each week. Private coaching also available and fun tennis sessions for the family. Ladies' Keep Fit Classes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ladies' Sauna now offers a 50 per cent discount on the usual entrance fee. Ladies' Day on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm. For details please call: 2530000/8050 (Recreation).

Thim Centre
"TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-a-side Inter Village Football Tournament which will be held on the Sour grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th 1990. For further information please contact organisers - 2441860 Casimiro."

Academy of Arts
ACOI overseas is pleased to announce their first one day football tournament which will be held on the March 2, 1990, at the Sour Grounds.

For further information contact, Casimiro D'Souza or Menino Leitao at the Sour Grounds.

Apollo Fitness Centre at Holiday Inn Kuwait
Julie Dent wants you ... to check out the new look at Holiday Inn and make 1990 the year for a happier, healthier you. Squash and tennis courts with professional coaches available. Separate gym facilities for men and women, including steam, sauna and jacuzzi. Burn off those extra pounds in Julie's exercise classes or swim your way to fitness in our heated pools. Why not try out our 4-lanes bowling alley or simply relax in the lounge with friends. You have tried the rest, now sample the best. Call in now for further details on membership, activities and events ... There is something for everyone. So, whatever your sport, call now on 4742000 ext. 6700 or ext. 6788 for the recreation manager.

MBH Sports Centre
Life saving course, with Royal Life Saving Society Coach, Grade I Examiner will be commencing shortly. Ergocycle Fitness Computer tests and courses now available at Messilah. Jazzercise Aerobics Studio power Yoga and Ballet exercise classes also available.

can always work off those excess calories at the apollo fitness centre.

Al Andalus Super Club: Spend your Thursday night Arabic style. Savour our exotic Oriental and International food. Relax to the musical entertainment provided by our resident Arabic band. Come and enjoy ... you deserve it.

Friday Family Lunch: A great time for the whole family. Prizes and surprises for the children, with Disney characters and our amazing magic show. A sumptuous oriental and international buffet complimented by the sounds of our resident band, makes this a day to look forward. See you all...

La Meridien: Take advantage of our great value business lunch which includes starter, main course, dessert and coffee.

Or in relaxing atmosphere provided by our resident artist you can relish the finest cuisine from our A La Carte menu, which features specialties from our chef as fish or beef "fondue", grilled beef on "brasserie" ham and salmon on "shingle" among others.

GREEK TAVERNA: Every Tuesday at La Brasserie - Enjoy a little Mediterranean Magic, real Bouzouki music and dreamy Greek island specialties and atmosphere.

INDONESIAN CORNER: Every Wednesday at La Brasserie - Enjoy Indonesian cuisine in addition to our daily lavish buffet. Our chef will prepare Indonesian specialties in front of you.

JAZZ NIGHT: Every Thursday at La Brasserie - Enjoy New Orleans atmosphere with jazz and seafood specialties.

ORIENTAL BUFFET LUNCH: Every Friday at La Brasserie - Enjoy a typical Oriental buffet lunch with Oriental organist.

The Sheraton
COFFEE SHOP: A new attraction is the seafood night every Monday where some of the best of sea foods are prepared. For a taste of the best of preparations of sweet + sour hamour, fried shrimps Thai style, etc. New dishes every week.

LE TARBOUCHE: Open for lunch and dinner Le Tarbouche offers a wide selection of hot + cold mezza. Every Thursday evening the Arab world specialties buffet features popular dishes from different Arab countries. Evening entertainment from our Oud player.

AL HAMBRA: Enjoy the Arabian night theme at the Al Hambra with delicious Arabic dishes buffet style. Enjoy a family brunch every Friday with entertainment and surprises for the children. Nightly entertainment by G.H. Amidi.

SYRIAN FESTIVAL: The Syrian Festival will take place March 3-7, '90 with an exhibition in the lobby featuring traditional handicrafts, fashion and information on Syria. A festival with evening performance will be held in the new grand ballroom during this period followed by a superb buffet. For more information call on 2422055 ext. 675.

At the Holiday Inn Health Club and Recreation Centre
SWIMMING lessons available all year round with qualified swimming instructors. Open to non-members. Mon-Tues-Wed 3.30 to 5.30. Beginners-improvers-adults mixed keep fit classes. Wed 5-6 Thurs 6-7, Fri 12-1.00 and 1-2.00, Sat 5-6.00. Ladies keep fit, Mon 5-6, Tues 5-6, Fri 5-6 and Sun 5.30-6.30. Martial arts w/black belt instructor Mon-Wed 6, Taekwondo Sat-Mon, 7-8 Thurs 5-6. Bowling alley available for private company and community tournaments. Five squash courts. Squash handicap every Sunday start 6 pm - all standards, open to non-members. Squash coaching available from professional coach everyday, from 1 pm. Massage for men and women; gym facilities for men and women; tennis courts - coaching available. Plus lots more. Phone for further details - Recreation Manager, 4742000 ext 6788 Julie Dent or 6700 recreation.

Hotel Meridien Kuwait
Envoy Thai cuisine every Saturday night at La Brasserie in addition to its daily lavish buffet. Thai specialties are prepared by the chef in front of guests.

COWBOY NIGHT
EVERY SUNDAY: Enjoy five country music, western decor and hearty ranch food - prime ribs, burgers, tacos and great desserts including mom's apple pie. Visit La Brasserie for a real country hoo-down.

EVERY MONDAY NIGHT AT LA BRASSERIE: Enjoy Chinese cuisine in addition to its lavish daily buffet. Chinese specialties are prepared in front of guests.



NIGHT CHEMIST

- Kuwait Al Hafez Pharmacy
- Salah Al Deen Street
- Al Sharqiya Pharmacy
- Al Hilali Street
- Hawalli and Nagra
- Al Firdous Pharmacy
- Nagra, Beirut St
- Salmiya and Rumailhiya
- Al Bader Pharmacy
- Al Balajat Street
- Al Huda complex
- Fahadheel and Ahmadi
- Al Badaea Pharmacy
- Al Dabooos Street
- Old Khaitan
- Al Welda Pharmacy
- Main Street
- Jahra
- Al Noor Pharmacy
- Al Matafi Street

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1	7.00	8.00
MORNING	A symposium on special education (part 2), prepared and presented by Omar Al Sane	News in English
9.30 Opening and Holy Quran	Made in Kuwait: Informative programme, prepared and presented by Dr Ali Al Qamhi	8.30 You and the Law. A local informative programme on Law and regulations enforced in Kuwait...
9.40 Sabah Al Kher, news	Good Evening and local news	8.45 Coming of Age. Todd is My Co. Pilot. Dick meets his old friends in a party held for retired pilots.
9.50 Cartoon Serial	9.00 News in Arabic	9.15 The story of Hollywood. "The Coming of Sound." The breakthrough that echoed the end of silent pictures. A chronicle of the rise of the new star, from Al Jolson's Jazz Singer to Clark Gable's Rhet Butler.
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)	9.45 Illa Al Shabab Maa Al Tabeya: local serial (part 2)	10.00 The Twilight Zone. "Dream Me A Life." An old man dreams of meeting a lady. The same woman joins the club where he is one of its members...
10.30 Shuaa Min Al Madhi: Arabic Serial (part 12)	10.45 Al Burkan: weekly Arabic serial	10.30 The Silk Route of the sea. "The Gate way of China." Hainan, the island which is considered the gateway of China; its people, traditions and daily life activities.
11.30 Sabah Al Kher, news	12.35 New summary	11.30 A Man called Hawk "Never my love"
11.35 Challenges: Foreign cultural programme	12.40 The World Today via Satellite	12.15 News in Brief
12.15 Sabah Al Kher, news	1.00 Holy Quran and closedown	12.30 Magazine D'Actualite
12.25 News summary		
12.30 Sabah Al Kher final		
12.35 Holy Quran and closedown		
EVENING		
4.00 Opening and Holy Quran		
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)		
4.45 Sabah Al Fdha: Cartoon serial		
5.15 The World of Tomorrow: Cultural serial		
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements		
6.00 Wa Qala Hakeem: historical serial		
6.45 Varieties		
	KTV 2	
	6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran	
	6.10 Diplodoss. A cartoon series for children.	
	6.30 The Little World Of Dictator Fill "The Shore" A Micro-field study on marine microscopic creatures which live near rocky shores...	
	7.00 Peaceable Kingdom	

BUSINESS & FINANCE

If freed Swindler pledges to return millions

CAIRO, Feb 26, (Reuters): The head of a major Egyptian Islamic investment company, charged with swindling investors out of more than \$700 million, asked a court today to free him so he could pay them back.

Ahmed Tawfik Abdel-Fattah, 33, chairman of Rayan Islamic Investment Company, cut defence lawyers short to urge that he be freed so he could recover the \$1.9 (\$730 million) deposited by 187,500 people between 1982 and 1988.

"Keeping us under arrest will be of no use to anyone... I ask you to release us, keep us under surveillance, because we have money and we can bring it back," Abdel-Fattah said from behind bars in the courtroom.

Abdel-Fattah is already serving 33 years in prison on previous fraud convictions.

He is being tried with his brother Mohammed, 73-year-old father Tawfik, two Rayan employees and eight other businessmen on charges of violating banking and foreign exchange laws by funneling hundreds of millions of dollars out of Egypt.

Two of the businessmen, a Kuwaiti and a Lebanese, are being tried in absentia. All those in court when the trial began on Sunday pleaded not guilty.

Abdel-Fattah, in a dark blue prison uniform and apparently in good spirits, told the court his intent was to pay back the money he had stolen.

Lawyers representing some depositors asked the court to summon an Abdel-Fattah associate named Bob Walker who they said was investing Rayan money in the United States. They said the two should agree on a way to bring back the money.

An anxious woman who said she had deposited her life savings of \$80,000 with Rayan pleaded with the court to consent to Abdel-Fattah's request for freedom.

"Let us follow the words of Allah... we cannot lose more than what we have lost already," she added.

After a five-hour hearing, the court ordered prosecutors to summon Walker but refused to release Abdel-Fattah, his brother or his father. The trial was adjourned until April 21.

The government cracked down on Egypt's more than 100 Islamic investment houses in 1988 following reports of malpractice.

The firms, rejecting fixed interest as un-Islamic, attracted investors by offering annual returns on deposits at least seven per cent higher than bank interest rates.

The government, accusing the companies of using new deposits to pay dividends to old clients, passed laws requiring them to go public and submit to government scrutiny.

In November 1988, the government seized assets, cash and documents from Rayan and arrested its owners, saying they had failed to abide by the new law.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Feb 26, (Reuters): The market nosedived after a plunge in Tokyo. The All Ordinaries index dropped 35.4 points, or 2.2 per cent, to close at 1,545.6 in its biggest one-day fall since the "mini crash" of last October 16.

TOKYO: The Nikkei plunged 4.5 per cent, or 1,569.10 points, to close at 33,321.87 in its second biggest one-day points drop ever. Some buying in late trading by Japanese brokers lifted the index off its low for the day.

BOMBAY: Share prices ended lower in cautious trading ahead of Tuesday's elections to eight state assemblies and one special territory, brokers said. The Bombay Stock Exchange index gained 0.61 to 680.38. The National index fell 0.62 to 377.85.

LONDON: Shares moved ahead in late trading, wiping out early losses, reassured by Wall Street's resistance to the second largest ever loss in Tokyo stocks.

VILLA FOR RENT
In posh area, near city, on main road, preferred for an ambassador or embassy residence.
(Request intermediate parties not to call)
Ph: 2422420 (Abughezi)
From: 11-1 pm
8-8 pm

Sheikh Salem sets terms for debt settlement

KUWAIT, Feb 26, (Kuna): Over 75 per cent of customers with bad debts have approached the Central Bank to settle indebtedness below the ceiling of KD250,000 fixed in the report by the joint committee on activation of the country's economy, says

Central Bank Governor Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah.

Sheikh Salem told Kuna that 511 indebtedness totalling KD40 million had applied for immediate settlement. He noted that 16 other indebtedness with indebted-

ness exceeding the \$250,000 limit had requested to be included in the settlement programme after they adjust their debts to the required limit. Indebtedness of this category is estimated at KD5 million.

The governor said the total of guarantees provided by the debtors amounted to KD9.4 million, including real estate, land plots, shares.

He underlined that local banks would not sell any of the guarantees in a bid to maintain stability of assets prices according to the programme for settling bad debts.

Sheikh Salem explained that according to the programme, local banks could not use the facilities in their possession without approval of the Central Bank of Kuwait.

He said banks transactions during 1990 would witness positive developments, indicating required subsidies would be made available to the concerned banks soon.

Oil revenue up: UAE

Baghdad urges higher oil prices

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Feb 26, (AP): Iraq appears to be urging other key Gulf petroleum producers to aim for a higher oil price than the current target of \$18 a barrel, the Middle East Economic Survey reported today.

The weekly newsletter, published in Cyprus, said this was understood to be the main thrust of recent messages from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to the leaders of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The messages were delivered earlier this month by Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul-Rahim Al Chakabi but their contents were not divulged at the time.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries has set a target price of \$18 a barrel in an effort to stabilise oil prices.

The economic survey, which quoted "Gulf sources", wrote: "Although couched in moderate terms, the Iraqi message conveyed the impression that nominal prices should be allowed to rise gradually, at least to compensate for inflation."

The newsletter said this would carry "the implication that the Gulf producers should observe the necessary production restraint to permit this to happen."

"The Iraqis appear to be particularly worried about a possible price deterioration in the second quarter of this year due to Opec over-production."

It said the message also argued that Gulf producers with spare output capacity should not ignore the interests of other Opec exporters, such as Algeria, which lack capacity to expand output but badly need higher oil prices to sustain their economic development.

On Sunday, the United Arab Emirates called for a new production agreement by the oil organisation that would assign a higher quota to that Gulf state.

Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed, Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince and chairman of its Supreme Petroleum Council, said "we are looking forward to a new Opec quota accord that will reflect the UAE's natural size."

The UAE expressed reservations about the 1.5 million barrels-a-day quota it was offered at the last Opec meeting in November.

Because of this, the overall production ceiling of 22 million barrels a day for January-June 1990 included only the old quota of 1.095 million barrels for the UAE.

UAE leaders said they were bringing down production from 2.6 million barrels a day as of January, to a self-imposed daily rate of 2 million barrels, as a temporary measure to help the organisation stabilise the market.

Economy Minister Saif Al Jarwan says the United Arab Emirates' oil revenues shot up by at least 60 per cent last year because of improving world oil prices, the Al Khaleej daily reported today.

Saab aims better prospects despite loss

STOCKHOLM, Feb 26, (Reuters): A big loss at the car division of Swedish vehicle and aircraft maker Saab-Scania halved pre-tax profits last year to 1.6 billion crowns (\$262 million), but prospects for 1990 look better, the company said today.

The downfall was due to the car unit's dramatically lower results. The results and margins for the group will rise considerably in 1990, it said.

Last year was the second in a row that Saab-Scania AB failed to increase profits after nine years of steadily rising income. It said all divisions except the car unit, in which General Motors Corp (GM) of the United States took a 50 per cent stake last December, did better than in 1988.

Share analysts took the results calmly. "I guess the number was a shade weaker than what we had expected but not much really," said Peter Dupont of London-based brokers UBS Phillips and Drew.

But Dupont added that the company was likely to come back and show a profit of around 3.2 billion crowns (\$524 million) in 1989, mainly due to its deal with GM.

"They should be much better off this year. Quite simply they have sold half of their losses," Dupont said.

Saab-Scania said the car unit, Saab Automobile, would not be included in the main balance sheet in future. The unit's president, David Herman, has said he expects to turn the red ink into black by 1991.

"We'll have to see, but I don't think it is going to be as easy as pie to turn the car division around," said Philip Ayton.

Georg Karnsund, chief executive of Saab-Scania, said he expected Saab Automobile would begin to show better results, though not necessarily a profit, in the second half of 1990.

"I can't say when there will be a profit but I think the turnaround for the division should be more noticeable in the second half of 1990, rather than the first," he told reporters.

Karnsund also noted that the truck and bus division Scania planned investing 1.4 billion crowns in the early 1990s to increase capacity by 50 per cent.

Analysts said Saab's truck division turned in lighter than expected profits of 3.57 billion crowns (\$584 million) compared with 2.45 billion crowns (\$361 million) in 1988.

Some said the truck division could be in for a tougher time as a result of a linkup between Volvo and French state-owned Renault announced last week.



Family prizes

The grand draw for the family prizes for Chrysler and Mitsubishi vehicle purchasers was held on Feb 18 at Al Mulla Al Rai Automotive showroom under the supervision of Ministries of Commerce and Industry and Interior. The bumper first prize consisting of gold jewellery, cash and super toys was won by Mohd. Zaman N.A. Ismail. There were a total of 12 prize winners. The winning Nos. in serial order are as follows: (1) 2763, (2) 2586, (3) 2600, (4) 2464, (5) 2389, (6) 2432, (7) 2560, (8) 2727, (9) 2604, (10) 2540, (11) 2222 and (12) 2354. Picture shows: Director, Khaled Najeeb Al Mulla (second from right) congratulating the first prize winner, Mohd. Zaman N.A. Ismail.



Shares stronger in Europe

Stock brokers watched slightly to see the morning closing rate of shares at the Tokyo Stock Exchange after frantic selling pushed prices down over 1,400 points at midday. Shares were down 1,458.79 to 33,432.18 at the morning close. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tokyo prices plunge

LONDON, Feb 26, (Reuters): Share prices in Europe were undaunted by a plunge in Tokyo and ended stronger today, reassured by US stocks also shaking off Japanese gloom.

The dollar closed sharply higher, benefiting from heavy selling of Japanese yen and traders offloading West German marks to collect the profits from the mark's recent gains.

European share trading was cautious in a market made nervous by Japanese shares shedding 4.5 per cent of their value overnight as the yen tumbled on currency markets.

But although shares opened lower across Europe, they recovered most of their losses by midday, helped by institutions hunting for bargains, and many posted gains once Wall Street opened with a steady to firm tone.

"It has been a very creditable and encouraging performance," one London dealer said.

The resilience of US stocks in the face of Tokyo's weakness has provided good support for European shares over the past week and alleviated concerns about a downward trend on global stock markets.

Fears about possible higher interest rates world-wide has sparked severe weakness in bond and now equity markets.

The London Financial Times-Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares rose 12.6 points to end at the day's high of 7,249.3 after opening 28.2 points down.

French shares pulled back opening losses to end slightly higher while Swiss and German shares, which closed earlier ended weaker but well off the day's lows. The German Dax index of 30 leading shares was 13.60 points down at 1,776.04.

Japanese stock and bond markets are worried that the weak yen may "import" inflation by making the raw materials Japan has to buy more expensive. Gold fell to \$411.55 an ounce from \$416.20.

A key factor in world-wide market gloom is German unification and the damage it could cause to the strong West German economy, whose currency is the cornerstone of the European monetary system, which locks nine European currencies in a grid.

Traders are worried about the heavy cost to West Germany of monetary union and rebuilding the East's ailing economy, a burden which is expected to be inflationary and push up West German interest rates. This has bolstered the mark recently, particularly against the yen.

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Saudi deposits

NICOSIA, Feb 26, (Reuters): Saudi rial interbank deposit rates eased marginally in quiet trade today as banks sought to place a small amount of new liquidity that had entered the market, dealers said.

Spot-next and one week eased 1/8 point from Sunday to 7-5/8 1/8 per cent. One month was offered 1/16 point easier 7-3/4 5/8 and three months eased 7-3/4 5/8 to 7-3/4 1/2. Six months was indicated at 8-1/4 1/2 and one year at 8-1/2 1/4.

The spot rial eased to 3.7504/07 to the dollar from 3.7500/04 on Sunday.

last week at the urgency of demands from their US counterparts in "structural impediments initiative" (SII) talks, aimed at identifying and solving differences in US-Japanese business traditions and lifestyles that contribute to their \$49-billion trade imbalance.

"The forced-March schedules of the SII talks, the punitive 'Super 301' trade legislation and the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) round on farm product liberalisation are all moving ahead with relentless force," the Japan Times said in an editorial last week.

US officials say they are pushing for progress that will quell Congress for protectionist laws.

The Super 301 clause of the 1988 trade law calls for tariffs of up to 100 per cent on selected imports from offending countries if an agreement is not reached on lifting the alleged trade barriers by the deadline.

Kaifu has said Japan will not negotiate on the three issues of Super 301 while the US Congress brandishes the threat of sanctions as though "raising a sword."

US demands and calls by other nations for Japan to lift its ban on rice imports have created a sense of crisis in government and Japan's media.

Nakayama and other officials expressed surprise

Kaifu-Bush summit needed with trade deadlines looming

TOKYO, Feb 26, (AP): US President George Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will meet this week to address trade friction that is igniting political problems within each of the economic powerhouses.

Their California meeting comes one week after Japanese and US officials ended a third round of talks on lopsided trade.

Both sides saw the need for a prompt summit as the latest talks ended in frustration for each.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama called cabinet-level talks last week to set priorities and a timetable for reforms, and Bush invited Kaifu for the Friday-Saturday Palm Springs meeting to discuss "the global partnership of Japan-US ties without deciding specific topics," Kaifu said.

However, the leaders are expected to talk specifics.

Under the "Super 301" clause of the US trade law, trade negotiators have until Nov 28 to decide if Japan's trade practices for supercomputers, satellites and wood products violate fair trade rules and thus merit retaliation.

The deadline, still nine months away, coupled

with pressure from US business circles to expand the list of items allegedly unfairly traded, appears to be generating pressure for faster action in all areas of bilateral trade talks.

There are fears that the building tension could harm broader US-Japan ties.

"The growing friction between our countries on trade issues and continued trade imbalances may, if unchecked, spill over into other areas of mutual interest and concern," US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said in Tokyo last week.

Having delayed trade talks for more than a month to prepare for Feb 18 elections, Kaifu now faces renewed pressure to respond to US demands.

The prime minister, whose conservative Liberal Democratic Party was returned to power with a comfortable majority, is still preparing a new cabinet lineup - expected Tuesday - and has had little time to devote to trade problems.

US demands and calls by other nations for Japan to lift its ban on rice imports have created a sense of crisis in government and Japan's media.

Nakayama and other officials expressed surprise

French GDP rises

PARIS, Feb 26, (Kuna): Gross domestic product (GDP) rose by 3.7 per cent in France in 1989, almost the same level as in 1988 with 3.8 per cent, according to figures just released here by the National Statistics Institute (Insee).

In the last quarter of 1989, GDP grew by 1.1 per cent from a revised 0.4 per cent in the third quarter.

With its 3.7 per cent growth in 1989, France is now listed third, instead of sixth in 1988, among the seven leading industrialised nations after Japan with 4.8 per cent and West Germany with 4.3 per cent.

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3 years' min. experience in Kuwait and 8 years' total experience after graduation. Age group: 28 - 35 years.

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Higher rates won't drive economy into recession

TOKYO, Feb 26, (Reuters): Japan's robust economy is likely to be relatively unaffected by the recent Tokyo share price plunge, despite a fall in the key market index of some 11 per cent in the last week, economists said.

And even higher interest rates, fears of which lurk behind the falling share prices, will not drive the Japanese economy into a recession, they said.

"To say the stock market will have no effect at all would be a lie, but it is difficult to think that it will have a big impact," said Nobuyuki Ueda, an economist at the long-term credit bank of Japan.

The key 225-share Nikkei index closed on its day's lows but still down 1,569.10 points, or 4.50 per cent after losing 935.87 points on Friday. It had plunged as many as 2,447.79 by mid-afternoon.

"It doesn't look as if the stock market per se will affect things terribly much," said Robert Alan Feldman, an economist at Salomon Brothers Asia Ltd. "The 1987 (stock market) crash didn't have a particularly large impact."

A sense that their wealth is slipping away with falling share prices could make some consumers a bit less likely to spend, especially on the high-price luxury goods which have been an important part of Japan's consumer spending spree.

"The individual shareholder's attitude toward consumption could be cooled off," said Sumitomo Bank Ltd. economist Toshiaki Kakimoto. But the impact on consumption is expected to be far less than it would be in the United States, where a larger proportion of individuals hold shares, the economists said.

"I would think (the stock market) would have some impact on consumer spending, but not equal to that in the US, because stock holding is still less here among individuals than in the US," said Peter Morgan, economist at Barclays de Zoete Wedd Securities (Japan) Ltd. "It's still concentrated among a certain number of speculators."

The startling downturn in share prices could also hamper corporate borrowing from raising funds in the equity market.

But companies are unlikely to be deterred from their plans for hefty capital spending — a key pillar of recent economic growth, the economists said.

"Companies have been taking advantage of high share prices to do equity financings, and that will become more difficult," said the long-term credit bank's Ueda.

"But companies' desire to invest to cope with the labour shortage, to rationalise, to enter new fields and for research and development — is very strong. So I don't think their capital spending will decline much," he said.

Currency rates

KUWAIT, Feb 26, (Kuna): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.29112	0.29227
Sterling	0.49382	0.49607
DM	0.12136	0.12115
Sw Fr	0.19630	0.19722
Italian	0.0002332	0.0002344
Japan	0.0019544	0.0019636
Bah. din.	0.77220	0.77146
UAE Dir.	0.07925	0.07959
S. riyal	0.07762	0.07794
Q. riyal	0.07994	0.08033
O. riyal	0.75595	0.75944

Interest rates

KUWAIT, Feb 26, (Kuna): Following are the average K.D. interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8-1/2	8-3/4
3 months	8-1/2	8-3/4
6 months	8-1/2	8-3/4
1 year	8-1/2	8-3/4

EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	17.250
Sri Lankan rupee	7.380
Pakistan rupee	13.740
Bangladesh taka	8.970
US dollar	29210
Pound sterling	49675
UAE dirham	0.07949
Japanese yen	17320
	001970

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EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	17.250
Sri Lankan rupee	7.380
Pakistan rupee	13.740
Bangladesh taka	8.970
US dollar	29210
Pound sterling	49675
UAE dirham	0.07949
Japanese yen	17320
	001970

Interest rates

KUWAIT, Feb 26, (Kuna): Following are the average K.D. interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Bid	Offered
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3 months	8-1/2	8-3/4
6 months	8-1/2	8-3/4
1 year	8-1/2	8-3/4

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Soviets to step up trade with Arabs

MOSCOW, Feb 26, (Kuna): A senior Soviet economic official indicated that there were extensive opportunities for Soviet-Kuwaiti co-operation in joint ventures and investment.

The chairman of Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry Yuri Bolakh believed that "prospects in coming three years would be fairly suitable for foreign investment in the Soviet Union, particularly funds pouring in from Kuwait."

Bolakh, who recently visited Kuwait, Syria and Jordan, said in an interview with Kuna that potentials of foreign investment in the Soviet Union however depends on current efforts to liberalise the Soviet economy

and to make of the Soviet currency, the rouble, a hard currency.

He also referred to present controversy and heated debate in the Soviet Union over the need for ending the monopoly of Soviet foreign trade bank to all external financial deals and efforts for introducing a new system that might allow establishment of joint banks in the country.

The Soviet official linked the progress in economic ties between his country and the Arab world to current political and economic changes in the Soviet Union, noting that some 14,000 Soviet commercial foundations were granted the right to develop

such bonds and are now in a state of active search for new partners in foreign markets, including the Arab world.

He emphasised that a Soviet commission has been formed to promote trade relations with Arab countries, saying that Kuwait was well qualified to play an outstanding role in investment fields in this connection, while Syria and other Arab countries could contribute by exporting certain agricultural products to the Soviet Union.

Bolakh asserted that the Arab countries have good chances to invest in Soviet southern republics where there were similarities regarding religious beliefs and social and cultural



Abdul Aziz Al Saquer

values. "This does not mean there were no potentials for Arab investment in Soviet European Republics," Bolakh added. He

stated that Arab countries would also find encouragement in the Ural Republics where heavy machinery and coal industries are flourishing.

He said during his recent talks in Kuwait with the president of the Arab Chambers of Commerce and Industry Association he proposed the convening of a joint Soviet-Arab meeting in Moscow next May to assess the prospects of future co-operation and examine the impact of present economic changes, both in the Soviet Union and worldwide, on bilateral co-operation, namely in banking spheres.

He underscored the importance of upgrading activities of the joint Soviet-Arab Chamber

of Commerce and Industry and the need of creating an affiliate permanent body in Moscow to oversee contacts with Arab countries and to organise the flow of information and other issues between Soviet and Arab chambers of trade and industry.

Bolakh said he met in Kuwait with the president of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdul Aziz Al Saquer and representatives of Kuwait's trade and economic establishments where talks evaluated in details ways of reactivating investments by Kuwaiti companies in the Soviet Union and steps of boosting Soviet exports to Kuwait.

He said the two sides acknowledged the shortcomings in

present bilateral economic ties and admitted that those ties do not cope with current requirements in light of changes prompted by the perestroika in the Soviet Union.

Bolakh said, he also met in Kuwait with the president of Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry Saleh Abdullah Al Osimi and discussed proposals for trade co-operation and establishment of permanent missions for commerce and industry chambers in the two countries.

On his visit to Jordan, Bolakh said he signed an agreement for bilateral co-operation in joint ventures and among the Amman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Soviet Chambers.

Sheikh Ali favours abandoning quota system

Arabs unlikely to back Kuwaiti call

BAHRAIN, Feb 26, (Reuters): Gulf Arab oil producers are unlikely to back a Kuwaiti call to scrap Opec output quotas at a key meeting in March even though some countries are now exceeding them, regional oil analysts say.

They did not believe oil heavyweights Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates — which persistently exceeds its quota — would support Kuwait's suggestion since quotas were still needed to prop up crude prices.

"At some point in the 1990s we may not need Opec quotas because everyone will be producing at their maximum to meet demand," Gulf International Bank Economist Henry Azzam said.

"At the moment everyone is trying to produce enough to meet market demand and keep prices from overshooting but in the next few months seasonal factors will change and world demand less — quotas will be needed to

back up prices," he told Reuters. Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa said two weeks ago he favoured abandoning Opec's quota system because it was not being honoured and was in any case not needed as prices were above the organisation's \$18 per barrel benchmark.

If the group's ultimate aim was to maintain prices then producers with spare capacity could get together and cut back whenever prices fell below \$18, he said.

But the analysts said Saudi Arabia — the only Gulf producer with any excess capacity to speak of — would reject the idea outright because it would force the kingdom back into its old role of "saving producers," adjusting output to suit demand.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said late in 1987 the kingdom would not let this happen again.

"From Saudi Arabia's point of view, the whole idea of scrapping quotas is a bit premature as

it is the only Gulf state with excess capacity," one oil analyst in the kingdom said.

He said it made no sense to do away with quotas until there was no excess capacity left in the world.

The analysts said Iraq would also be strongly against the idea because it wanted higher prices to boost its revenues and develop its untapped fields.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein urged Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to adopt a higher Opec reference price in messages to their leaders last week, the authoritative Middle East Economic Survey said today.

"The Iraqi message conveyed the suggestion that nominal prices should be allowed to rise gradually, at least to reflect inflation ... carrying the implication that Gulf producers should observe the necessary production restraint," it said.

Opec secretary-general Subroto told Reuters last week the subject of scrapping quotas

would be discussed at the organisation's March 15 market monitoring committee meeting in Vienna.

Oil ministers from Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela form the committee.

Gulf states control two-thirds of the world's known oil reserves and have started to build up output capacity to meet growing world demand.

But analysts say they may have difficulty meeting costs and Subroto on Thursday called for urgent talks to enable investment to go ahead, averting risk of a new oil price shock.

Saudi Arabia has an estimated capacity of 6.5 million barrels per day (BPD) compared with its quota of 5.380 million.

One Gulf-based industry source said the kingdom had trimmed back output to just below its quota in February from an estimated 5.65 million BPD in January.

Iran to revive project

ANKARA, Feb 26, (Reuters): Turkey and Iran will revive talks on natural gas and oil pipeline projects when Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut visits Tehran next week, State Minister Gunes Taner said yesterday.

"We have reached an agreement on a natural gas and oil pipeline from Iran to third countries through Turkey," Taner told the semi-official Anatolian News Agency after returning from a visit to Tehran.

"We will have talks on this and other matters when the Prime Minister goes to Tehran for joint economic commission talks," Taner added.

Akbulut's visit to Tehran, starting on Tuesday, follows improved ties between the two neighbours. Relations were strained last year when Iran criticised a court ban on Islamic-style headscarves being worn at Turkish universities.

Taner gave no details of the pipelines. The Turkish treasury said this week Iran wanted to revive a project to send natural gas to European markets via Turkey.

The link was first mooted in 1981 but never came to fruition because Iran was fighting the Gulf war at the time.

Turkish officials said Iran, with the world's largest gas reserves after the Soviet Union, was interested in selling gas to countries such as Bulgaria and Romania, which wanted to lessen their dependence on supplies from the Soviet Union.

Two years ago Turkey and Iran postponed a decision on building an oil pipeline from Iran's Ahvaz fields to Turkey's southern Mediterranean coast.

Brady in Warsaw to speed up US aid

WARSAW, Feb 26, (UPI): US Treasury Secretary Nicolas Brady paid a short consultative visit to Poland Sunday to discuss speeding up American aid to Poland as it undergoes economic stabilisation.

Brady held talks with Deputy Prime Minister Leszek Balcerowicz and Wladyslaw Balza, president of the Polish National Bank.

Balcerowicz, who is also Finance Minister, said the US and Polish sides discussed speeding up economic assistance approved by the US Congress, especially forms of aid that would help private enterprises and enhance credits for Polish exports, the official news agency PAP said.

"We want to get an answer to the question whether the so-called Brady plan could support the changes taking place in Eastern Europe," Brady said of his formula for assistance to Latin American debtor countries.

"One of the elements of our visit was an answer to the question: whether the steps undertaken as regards the Mexican debt reduction could be adapted for Poland, and to what degree."

Brady was asked about the possibility of another "marshall plan" for East European countries, similar to the massive US aid that pulled Western Europe out of economic disaster after World War II.

KD deposits

KUWAIT, Feb 26, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar deposit rates were steady in a quiet market on the first day of trade after a three-day weekend, dealers said.

Overnight was indicated at 8-5/8 3/8 per cent, tomorrow-next and spot-next at 8-5/8 7/16 and one week at 8-3/4 1/2.

In the fixed dates, one and three months were unmoved at 8-11/16 7/16 and six months to one year unchanged at 8-3/4 1/2.

Saudis tell EEC

Balanced trade pact vital

NICOSIA, Feb 26, (Reuters): The six-member Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) has urged the European Economic Community (EEC), its biggest trading partner, to work for a balanced trade pact that would encourage the Gulf's infant petrochemical industries.

The Saudi Press Agency SPA said the appeal was made by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal during a meeting on Sunday with his Irish counterpart Gerry Collins, whose country is current chairman of the 12-member EEC.

It said the GCC wanted the community to "improve the balance of trade between the two groups and reach a balanced trade pact that would take into consideration their strategic interests and the difference in development levels."

Trade relations between the two groups have been strained over quota and tariff restrictions imposed by the EEC on the Gulf's cheaper petrochemical products.

More than 400 officials and businessmen from both groups met in Granada, Spain, last week to discuss how to narrow the trade gap of around \$4.4 billion in favour of the EEC.

EEC and GCC foreign ministers are scheduled to meet in Muscat, Oman, on March 17 to review commercial, political and economic relations.

The GCC links Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.



BIB holds meeting

The annual general meeting of Bahrain International Bank held in Bahrain on February 20 approved the directors' recommendation of a 7 per cent dividend to shareholders. Picture shows from (left to right) Jawad Habib, auditor, Sami Kaskow, Vice Chairman, and Donald Seinger, General Manager and CEO.

Gulf economic outlook: 1990

Soaring oil income and higher borrowing helps boost domestic market

This is the second part of this article. The first part appeared on Feb 25, Monday.

The UAE economy appears to have enjoyed a strong resurgence of economic activities in 1989 with nominal GDP growth rate estimated at around 9 per cent following the slight decline of 1.2 per cent recorded in 1988. Firm oil prices and above quota oil production levels boosted export revenues to more than \$10 billion last year and helped fuel government expenditures on various infrastructural projects.

The marked strengthening of performance of non-oil activities in 1988 continued last year with strong domestic and external demand, being for goods and services locally produced or for re-export purposes.

Non-oil GDP is estimated to have increased by 5 per cent last year following a growth of 3.8 per cent in 1988. Output of the non-oil sectors accounted for 57 per cent of GDP compared to 66 per cent in 1988. Particularly important was the con-

tribution to non-oil GDP growth of such sectors as commerce and trade, manufacturing, construction, finance and tourism. Trade continued to prosper and Dubai's re-export business, mainly to Iran and to a lesser extent Oman, witnessed a dramatic growth of more than 26 per cent, after dropping 3.38 per cent in 1988. Exports of garments to the US picked up and the number of trade licences issued in the Emirates rose 30 per cent.

The trade revival was accompanied by an increase in construction activities generating a real estate boom and a sharp rise in rental rates. Tourism activities picked up as well, with 30 per cent increase in the number of recorded visitors to the Emirates.

Oman's economy rebounded last year with nominal GDP estimated to have grown at around 8 per cent compared to a decline of 2.9 per cent in 1988. The oil sector accounted for 45 per cent of GDP, while in the non-oil economy, the services sector mainly government services and

trade, accounted for 35 per cent of GDP. Domestic economic activities maintained the positive growth recorded in 1988 with a rebound in almost all sectors.

It is estimated that non-oil GDP at current prices increased by around 4 per cent in 1989 following an 8.3 per cent increase in the year before. About 10,000 tourists visited the country in 1989 and the number is expected to rise further this year. The rural industrial area outside Muscat has grown by about 30 per cent over the last 12 months, with plants producing a whole range of products and catering mostly for the domestic market. A major push to develop deep-sea fishing has been initiated and the fish processing industry is expected to take off this year.

Foreign firms had started exploring for mineral deposits while the prospects for gas development have improved considerably with the announcement last June of the discovery of the Sultanate's biggest gas field where reserves are estimated at 10 billion cubic metres. Bank credit

to the private sector, which is a leading indicator of business activity rose at an annual rate of 9.1 per cent in the first three quarters of 1989.

Bahrain's gross domestic product is estimated to have grown by about 2.5 per cent at current prices in 1989 following a growth rate of 2 per cent in the year before and negative annual growth rate during the period 1985-1987. The higher crude oil and product prices as well as the good performance of the country's industrial, banking and other services sector were behind the trend, overall business activities continued to rebound last year, especially retail trade, banking and commerce. A gradual recovery in construction and housing was recorded with an upturn in real estate prices and rents mainly at the upper end of the market. Following huge provisions made in 1987, local and regional banks' 1988 performance and 1989 half year figures almost all show big improvements. Growth in nominal non-oil GDP is estimated at around 3.5 per cent up from 2 per cent in the year before.

The general revival of economic activity in the area has provided a strong stimulus to Bahrain's economy prompting the adoption of several industrial expansion schemes which will assist in the long term goal of diversifying away from oil.

The biggest expansion project announced in 1989 was the plan by Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) to double its capacity by 1993. The project will have forward and backward linkages with various sectors of the economy. The government has also taken steps to encourage tourism. Around 1.34 million tourists visited Bahrain last year, up 18 per cent on the year before, with more than one million from Saudi Arabia and the other GCC countries. Bahrain is looking to the Gulf region for the bulk of its future tourist business.

After four years of economic slowdown in Qatar, higher oil prices and the start-up of the massive North Field gas project helped improved overall economic performance and outlook last year. Nominal GDP is estimated to have grown by about 2.5

percent in 1989 following a 2 per cent decline in 1988. Oil sector output which accounts for around 35 per cent of GDP rebounded in 1989, with revenues up 23 per cent on the year before following a decline of 15 per cent in 1988. Increased oil revenues and higher government borrowing helped boost domestic activities with an estimated growth of non-oil GDP of around 2.5 per cent in 1989 following lower growth rates of 0.5 per cent and 0.6 per cent in the preceding two years respectively.

Hopes for economic revival and diversification hinge on the \$1.3 billion North Field development for which the last big contract was signed in mid 1989. Several major projects are expected to take off soon which could use the surplus gas generated from the North Sea Field. The construction sector which accounts for 8.4 per cent of non-oil GDP will get a much needed boost as the gas and other related ventures continue. Finance, insurance and real estate sectors will also benefit from forward and backward linkages generated by

the gas project and so will overall demand for labour in the country.

Inflation in the region edged up in 1989 after several years of decline, with the rise in such domestic factors as money supply, government budget deficits, rents, wages, especially of skilled employees and qualified professionals, and prices of services boosting overall consumer prices.

This came partly as a reflection of the turnaround in domestic economic activities and therefore was more apparent in some Gulf countries (e.g. the UAE) than in others. The estimated 6 per cent inflation rate in the UAE was due to a sharp rise in rental rates reaching up to 60 per cent in certain areas and a mild boom in overall domestic activities. Last year's contribution of higher import prices to inflation was less than during the preceding few years as Gulf currencies, effectively pegged to the US dollar, recorded higher exchange rates against the region's major trading partners of Western Europe, Japan and other Far East countries throughout most of 1989.

Furthermore, inflationary pressures were dampened as governments in the region maintained subsidies in basic goods and services including power, water, transportation, basic food items, education, health and other public services. The average price of Opec's basket of seven crude oils rose by \$3.01 per barrel or 21.2 per cent last year to \$14.28 per barrel in 1988 to \$17.31 per barrel in 1989. By late January 1990 the spot price of the Opec basket reached \$20 barrel well above Opec's \$18 target.

The average price of Arabian light crude which constitutes one of the seven crudes in the Opec basket was \$16.2 a barrel compared to \$13.5 a barrel in 1988 and \$17.3 a barrel in 1987. The continuing upturn in world economic growth, last year contributed to firmer demand for energy with consumption of oil world-wide (excluding the centrally planned economies) rising by 2.2 per cent to 52mbpd compared to 50.5mbpd in 1988. (to be continued)

لجنة الخليج



Italian comic actors Roberto Benigni (right) and Paolo Villaggio at the premiere of Fellini's *La Voce della Luna*

Fellini's new film 'Voice of the Moon' 'Nothing is known....everything imagined'

ROME, (Reuters): For Italians, the release of a new Fellini film is like the launch of a beautiful new year for the French.

It is a national happening. Critics endlessly analyse the film, probing its real significance. It dominates conversation at smart parties and on television.

So it has been in the past few weeks as Federico Fellini's *La Voce della Luna* (The Voice of the Moon) opened in hundreds of theatres in Italy's biggest cinema event for years.

Three years to the exact, since the release of the last work by the only Italian director called *Il Maestro* (the master), the only one whose films open at Hollywood-style, star-studded premieres.

"I'm not sure I understood it, but it may be a masterpiece, or at least it will be in 10 years," said one bemused woman as she left the film's first screening at a Rome cinema.

"I was moved because Fellini

managed to make the moon talk, which has been my dream since childhood. This film is a great metaphor of the human condition," said an elderly man.

Critics have used much purple prose to praise the maestro and by extension the film, a fable like many of Fellini's works.

"The master is always there, absorbed by the proud commitment to give an enigmatic, resentful, derisive, and slightly scornful response to the shapeless boisterousness of existence," said the top-circulation and respected *Corriere della Sera*.

"Fellini has reached the position of a demi-god whom nobody likes to criticise," said a foreigner working in the Italian film industry.

In the movie, Ivo Salvini, played by comic actor Roberto Benigni, climbs to rooftops, descends into wells, visits graveyards and roams through fields in search of primal voices that have been drowned out by

the din of modern life.

The imaginary provincial Italian city of Reggolo is bombarded by noise, its walls plastered with publicity.

Car radios blare, African street vendors hawk trinkets, Japanese tourists take photographs, television hypnotises children, women vie for the title "Miss Flou" at a noisy outdoor beauty contest.

Costumes

At a raucous food festival, king and queen dumpling wear costumes that make them look like sumo wrestlers. Young people at a discotheque use body language to communicate over the deafening decibels of Michael Jackson.

In his flight from reality, Ivo, a romantic vagabond, meets typically Fellini soulmates. These include a musician who sleeps in a cemetery to forestall death's silence, a man who sits on roofs and talks to refrigerators and a paranoid retired town

bureaucrat who stops disco dancers in their tracks when he grabs the disc-jockey's microphone and shouts: "Have any of you ever heard the sound of a violin?"

Ivo's disembodied voice says at the end: "If there were a little silence, maybe we could understand something."

"In the film, the moon appears like the possibility that each one of us has to listen to a voice — which emerges, especially if there is a little silence, and tells us something to help us," Fellini said.

The director, who turned 70 last month, made the film more effective and memorable by taking two well-known comic actors with naturally funny faces — Benigni and Paolo Villaggio — and putting them into dramatic roles.

"In Italy, in order to become part of history, to become a monument, you have to die first," said Villaggio. "Instead, by mak-

ing a film with Fellini, you are monumentalised, glorified and rehabilitated without dying. He saved my life."

Benigni compared the experience to that of a carpenter working with St. Joseph.

La Voce della Luna cost \$16 million to make — pocket money for some Hollywood productions but big money for Hollywood on the Tiber, as the Italian film industry's Rome base is called.

Critics and fans there who will try to interpret it might do better to heed the words of a character in the film. He is asked to explain the significance of the fact that the people of Reggolo had managed to bring the moon down to Earth with ropes and tie it up in a barn.

Throwing up his hands he quotes the 19th century Italian poet Giacomo Leopardi: "Nothing is known. Everything is imagined."

FAMILY DOCTOR By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

RAPID HEARTBEAT CAN BE LOWERED WITH VARIOUS TECHNIQUES

Question: My mother has been taken to the hospital several times because her heart suddenly starts beating out of control. She called it "tack" something and said that her heart rate was 200 beats per minute. Could you please tell me more about this disease? What should she do?

Answer: Your word "tack" comes from the Greek "tachy" which means "swift." The name of the medical condition is "tachycardia," or the rapid beating of the heart. Generally this term is applied to any heart rate over 100 beats a minute.

There are many types of tachycardia, and the cause usually is determined by carefully examining the heart and evaluating the electrocardiogram (ECG). It is called "paroxysmal" when the condition starts without warning. The patient may feel faint and weak, but rarely passes out completely. The patient should lie down immediately and remain quiet and calm, to offset the effects of a lowered blood pressure that may be present during the attack of this rapid heartbeat.

There are a number of techniques called "vagal manoeuvres" that may be attempted by trained personnel to break the rapid rhythm. The patient may attempt a forcible exhaling effort against a firmly closed mouth and glottis to increase the pressure in the chest area (Valsalva's manoeuvre) or the carotid sinus, located on the side of the neck, may be massaged.

I stress this should only be attempted by trained personnel while the heart is being monitored by an ECG. Frequently, this is all that is required to restore the heartbeat to normal. When this is unsuccessful, various medications, including verapamil or edrophonium, may be used. Digoxin may also be used when emergency treatment fails, and it is possible to return the heart to normal using electrical stimulation (electrical cardioversion).

Although this condition may be seen in younger people with no evidence of heart disease, in older people, like your mother, arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease may be present.

Question: I like to exercise and still enjoy a good game of tennis despite advancing years. However, I've taken with painful cramps after any decent match, which takes away a good deal of the fun. What causes cramps, and is there any way I can prevent them and preserve my pleasure?

Answer: Don't blame your age; cramps are just as common in younger people when the conditions are right. A cramp is a painful spasm of a muscle that causes it to contract, forming a hard "knot" that may often be felt by an examining hand. It's probably caused in otherwise healthy people by a loss of salt in the perspiration provoked by the exercise. It may happen as well to workers who must labour in hot, steamy environments.

The remedy is to replace the salt and the liquids during the match or work period. While there are commercial "sports" drinks available, orange or grapefruit juice diluted with plain or carbonated water, with a generous pinch of salt added, should do the job. If the cramp is caused by difficulties with blood circulation, however, prescription medication may be necessary to help.



Above: Agatha Christie model, Tussauds; (below) Christie's room in Torre Abbey



Whodunnit! Devon plays Queen Bee's mystery game

By Nicholas Cole

PLAUDITS have piled up like the tantalising clues in her 78 crime novels, she has been called "a phenomenon," "a national treasure," and "Queen Bee of the murder mystery." Now Agatha Christie is about to be commemorated with a series of celebrations marking the centenary of one of the most popular detective story writers of the 20th century.

Fourteen years after her death she remains one of the world's most widely published writers: her works have reached over one billion copies in English, and a further billion in at least 44 other languages. She also wrote 19 plays — best-known is "The Mousetrap," longest-running stage drama in history — and six romances penned under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott.

Special editions of such favourites as "Murder on the Orient Express" and "A Murder is Announced" are being issued; new TV productions of the Poirot and Miss Marple tales are under way; and "Towards Zero" is to be filmed, with Claude Chabrol directing. A major stage presentation of "Spider's Web" — one of Dame Agatha's personal favourites — is touring Britain throughout 1990.

Focus

The main focus of the centenary will be South Devon, where she was born and spent much of her life. It was at the stylish resort of Torquay that Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller entered the world on September 15, 1890, and it was here that she spent her early years. Her American father Frederick died when she was young, and she was raised and educated by her English mother Clara, who encouraged her gift for inventing stories.

But the stories were sad and sentimental, and young Agatha had difficulty in committing them to paper. Besides, her passion was opera, and at 16 she was sent to study music in Paris. Her singing abilities were, however, soon eclipsed by an emerging writing talent. By 1912, when she became engaged to her first husband — Archibald Christie, a colonel in the Royal Flying Corps — she already had several short stories accepted for publication.

They married in 1914, and Agatha spent the next four years working as a nurse (learning much about poisons) and also wrote her first detective novel, "The Mysterious Affair at Styles," in response to her sister's challenge that it was impossible to plot an unguessable whodunnit, introduced the diminutive

Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot. With his waxed moustache, intuitive skills and fastidious ways, he was a composite character inspired by Belgian war refugees. Yet he almost failed to get into print — the book was rejected repeatedly before a publisher paid a mere £60 for it.

"The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" (1926), really established the author's reputation. Sales — 5,500 copies, high in pre-war book days — were boosted by her brief but much-publicised disappearance during a period of personal trauma. Presumed found her on 17 December, 1926, staying under an assumed name at the Old Swan Hotel in the Yorkshire spa town of Harrogate. Doctors diagnosed amnesia: the event was fictionalised in the 1978 film *Agatha*, starring Vanessa Redgrave and Dustin Hoffman.

As comfortable and sophisticated as ever, the Old Swan is running 10 "Supersleuth" murder game weekends this year, with professional actors and real-life forensic scientists assisting the amateur detectives! Murder weekends are also on offer at a variety of hotels, from the Lake District to Plymouth, bookable through Murder Weekends, Quality International Hotels, 2 Valentine Place, London SE1 8QH.

After divorcing Col. Christie, Agatha married archaeologist Max Mallowan in 1930: the year Miss Jane Marple first appeared, in "Murder at the Vicarage" — she was modelled on the author's grandmother. From then on, Agatha enjoyed great happiness and ever-growing success. "A Christie for Christmas" was her fans' perennial cry: her 50th, "A Murder is Announced" (1950) sold 50,000 copies; the final thriller, "Sleeping Murder," had a first print-run of 60,000.

Although she found "searching for clues more fascinating than laying them," Agatha could produce a book in six to 12 weeks. She confessed to plotting them whilst sitting in the bath, eating apples! Her 1937 Remington typewriter and other memorabilia are on display in the Christie memorial room at 12th century Torre Abbey on the Torquay seaford.

The Torquay festival — "Mystery on the English Riviera" — will include a year-long centenary exhibition, but the main events take place between 8-16 September. They will include a crime writers' convention, a special visit by the revived, Orient Express (also celebrating its 100th birthday), a grand ban-

quet, murder weekends at the Imperial, Manor House and Overmead hotels, and a season of Christie plays and movies.

Torbay, 190 miles south-west of London, embraces three resorts — Torquay, Paignton and the old fishing town of Brixham — in an area of outstanding natural beauty. The villa where Agatha spent her childhood has gone, but her beloved later home survives a few miles away at Churston Ferrers in the delightful Dart Valley. This Georgian building, now the home of her daughter, is not open to the public (although it can be seen amidst the trees on a boat trip on the river). Visitors can, however, go to the parish church of St. Mary, as Agatha Christie died frequently — it contains a fine stained glass window she donated in 1956.

Further along the coast, off Bigbury-on-Sea, is 26-acre Burgh Island, reached at high tide by a unique sea tractor. The elegant Burgh Island Hotel among its guests, and she wrote two novels there — one of them, "Evil Under the Sun," is based on an island like Burgh. Amid the hotel's Art Deco interior, it is not hard to imagine oneself back in the days of Poirot and Miss Marple.

Equally worth visiting is Brown's Hotel — the original of "Bertram's" in the Christie books — in central London (3 1/2 hours by rail from Torbay): "A voyage back in time," was how Agatha described it — other literary guests at Brown's, have included Mark Twain, Rudyard Kipling and S.J. Perelman. Also in London, at Madame Tussaud's, is the author's wax figure. When she saw it in 1972, surrounded by effigies of world leaders, she remarked: "I'm in good company!"

Another good company is the one performing "The Mousetrap" at St. Martin's Theatre. Since opening on November 25, 1952 (Richard Attenborough and his wife Sheila Sim were the original leading players) it has been seen by nearly eight million people. Impresario Sir Peter Saunders sold the film rights in 1956 — with the proviso that the movie could not be released until six months after the end of the London stage run!

Guided tours of South Devon linked with the Christie centenary are offered this year by Wessex Heritage. St. Peter's Cottage, Cattistock, Dorchester, Dorset DT12 0JD. They range from two nights with bed and breakfast accommodation at £85, to an £830 six-day luxury tour leaving London on September 10 aboard the Orient Express.

'Open city' preserves colonial landmarks

ORAN, Algeria, (Reuters): "Close down the brothels," demanded thousands of Islamic fundamentalists last month in a rally in this West Algerian city, renowned for its free and easy ways.

Fundamentalists are gaining ground throughout Algeria but are likely to find this elegant Mediterranean port, with its tradition of openness to the West, a hard nut to crack.

Twenty-seven years after Algeria broke free from French rule, Oran still has remarkably like the cosmopolitan entrepot it was for centuries.

Ruled before the French by Andalusian princes, Berber kings, Spanish military governors and Turkish Beys, Oran seems to take its colonial past more in its stride than other parts of Algeria.

"The Oran resident is said to be a bon vivant, proud of the city's climate of tolerance that historians date from its founding in 903 by the Emir of Cordoba."

"Oran has always been an open city, a city looking toward the sea," said Zubeida Hagani, a professor of French at Oran University.

Rai music, the raw pulsating blend of African rhythm and Western pop born in the city's cabarets, blares from cassette shops and car radios.

Fewer women wear veils than in other big towns. Nightclubs on the outskirts of the city draw dancers until five in the morning even with whisky at 100 dollars a half-litre.

But the fundamentalists are confident. "Under the French, Larbi Ben M'hidi Street (then called Rue Arzew) had more bars than Hamburg," said an official of the Islamic Front (FIS), Algeria's strongest opposition party.

"Now things have changed," he said. Bars were closing and mosques opening all over the city. "You should see Oran on Friday. There are hundreds of mosques full of people at Friday prayers."

Religious Oranians are certainly deeply rooted in Oran and thousands of migrants from the countryside flocking to the city for jobs, have brought with them conservative views.

The FIS-affiliated association of purity drew more than 10,000 people to its rally last month demanding that the provincial governor shut the city's bars, brothels and nightclubs, ban alcohol and turn the local brewery into something "useful for society."

The FIS official said the governor had promised to study the demands but had not yet responded.

"The rally didn't leave a trace on the population," said Nordi Hagani of this city has always been a city of tolerance, he said.

"The Oranians strive for elegance. They like to travel and loves his national music and poetry," said Nordi Hagani. "He could be a practising Muslim, but that does not prevent him from enjoying life."

Religious street signs, torn off painted over in other Algerian cities remain in Oran to indicate Boulevard Sebastopol, Rue El Pommiere, Rue Diderot.

A Spanish-built hill fort overlooks a city of splendid colonial mansions, palm-lined squares and seafront promenades that hang like balconies over the port.

White facades, rippling with secure and ornamental flourishes grace shopping avenues that are cleaner and less hectic than those of the capital.

The municipal theatre, built in 1906 during Oran's colonial heyday, is a neo-classical masterpiece topped with twin gold-leaf domes and statue of the three muses — tragedy, comedy and opera.

It is hard to explain why French writer Albert Camus painted so many pictures of Oran in his 1947 "The Plague" — unless he was looking towards his native Algiers.

"The city itself, one must say, is ugly...how can one imagine a city without pigeons, or garden?" he wrote, introducing a story of death and plague in 1940s.

FIS supporters agree with opponents on one thing — preservation of the city's colonial landmarks however much they may run counter to Islamic sensibilities.

They include sculptures in the walls of the Fine Arts Museum depicting wine, women, song and a Neo-Byzantine Cathedral that is now a library.

Dutch celebrate Van Gogh

Centenary spawns commercial spin offs

AMSTERDAM, (Reuters): The name of Vincent van Gogh, the impoverished artist whose works now fetch record prices, may help turn a profit for many of his countrymen this year.

Along with the largest exhibition ever of his work and a series of cultural events, celebrations in the Netherlands marking the 100th anniversary of Van Gogh's death have spawned a plethora of commercial spin-offs — from sparkling wine to perfume.

The exhibition will fill two museums from March 30 to July 29, bringing together 130 paintings and 250 sketches by Van Gogh.

But while this is the highlight of the celebrations, the centenary will see a range of happenings from the serious to the ludicrous.

"1990 is Van Gogh's go-go year," wrote the Dutch NRC Handelsblad newspaper previewing the events.

One red-bearded Dutch model has been trying to boost his flagging career by seeking jobs as a Van Gogh look-a-like.

On the serious side, the curators of the exhibition at the Vincent van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam and the Kroller-Mueller Museum in Otterlo, in the east of the country, have put the emphasis on works the artist considered his most important. The

curators drew on Van Gogh's extensive correspondence with his brother Theo.

The exhibition will offer a rare chance to see different versions of the same painting together.

Some of the works have been kept in private collections away from public eyes for up to 50 years and others have rarely been allowed to travel — because of the fear of ruining them.

Experts say it may be the last time so many Van Goghs will go on show together — partly because of the exorbitant insurance costs for his paintings.

The show has been insured for \$3 billion — believed to be the highest coverage ever to be taken out for an art exhibition — with a premium of \$4 million. The Dutch government has promised to cover losses up to \$150 million.

The phenomenal high price is because Van Gogh's works have broken all records in recent years. His "Irises" fetched \$53.7 million in 1987, the highest sum ever for a work of art.

"Irises" will not be on display — Van Gogh did not consider it among his masterpieces. But among the gems will be "Starry Night" from the New York Museum of Modern Art, three versions of "The Bedroom" from Paris, Chicago and Amsterdam, and "The Yellow House."

Organisers say they expect up to 1.4 million visitors at the show.

In addition, a film festival featuring more than 80 films on Van Gogh, several operas, ballet and plays dramatising his life — even special bicycle trips to the spots where he painted and lived — are planned.

On the commercial side, Van Gogh fans can buy a flask of perfume inspired by the artist's flower canvases for 125 guilders (\$62.50). "The design for the bottle is based on the ever returning sun in the works of Van Gogh," says the advertisement.

Others may find Vincent Extra Brut Cava wine produced in Spain irresistible at 30 guilders (\$15) a bottle or consider a Van Gogh watch a must.

Among other items on sale is flower-scented Vincent soap, a tie or T-shirt of his landscapes and a compact disc with music by his favourite composers.

Bronze busts of Van Gogh are available for \$487.50, while an imitation of "Sunflowers" painted in oils can be had for about \$650 and a lithograph of "Irises" for \$300.

Such products underscore the enduring fascination Van Gogh, who committed suicide at the age of 37 and sold only a single painting in his life, holds for the public.

'Real men' learn sexual responsibility

MEMPHIS, Tennessee, (UPI): Roosevelt Crawford grew up in a decaying housing project in the shadow of Lemoyne-Owen College, never dreaming he would attend the college just across the street from his home.

Crawford, 19, thought his ticket out of the drug-infested ghetto was the marines. But when an injury ended those hopes, he joined the college's real men programme as a high school senior.

Now, because he graduated from high school without fathering a child, the real men programme allows Crawford to attend Lemoyne-Owen tuition free.

Real men is one of seven community-based programmes offered by Lemoyne-Owen since Irving MacPhail became president of the predominantly black college in 1987. Until that time, the 100-year-old college had tried to ignore its surroundings. Today, it is

trying to make them better.

"It's my conclusion that a historically black college located in the heart of the African-American community must be engaged in productive activities that are designed to liberate that community," MacPhail said.

Adopt

His first move was to "adopt" the Lemoyne Gardens housing project with 800 residents and known as the city's worst. Out of that effort has grown Real Men, tutoring programmes, a big brothers-big sisters chapter, sports programmes and neighbourhood revitalisation programmes.

Real men was developed by Lemoyne-Owen physical education Professor E.D. Wilkins to help teenage boys learn sexual responsibility. The programme's goal is to keep teenagers from fathering children, and as an incentive to remain celibate or practice safe sex, those who successfully com-

plete the course may attend Lemoyne-Owen tuition free.

In a city where 8 per cent of the unmarried female population under age 18 has a child and 6 per cent have two or more children, sexual responsibility is a problem.

Wilkins said she was fortunate because the community foundation, which provided a grant for Real Men for two years, had been interested in a teen pregnancy project for adolescent males.

Cool

"Their previous studies had shown that the No. 1 school dropout cause among female teens is pregnancy," Wilkins said. "We found there were plenty of pregnancy prevention programmes for the girls, but very few for the boys."

"A friend of mine was in Real Men, and he asked me if I wanted to join," Crawford said. "He said it was real

cool, so I went and checked it out."

To join Real Men and be eligible for the scholarship, the student must sign a contract not to have a child. Guidance counsellors and parents verify the student's participation. Parents also must sign the contract and attend parents' meetings.

The programme is open to boys in the 9th through 12th grades, and is targeted to poor, inner-city blacks.

Model

Of nine high school seniors enrolled in the 17-week programme that began last spring, all successfully completed the course and seven were in college last fall, including five enrolled at Lemoyne-Owen. Free tuition is provided only at Lemoyne-Owen. The two students who did not attend college entered the service.

"I taught me the responsibility of not getting caught in that trap," said Mario Johnson, 18, another freshman

at Lemoyne-Owen.

Johnson and Crawford are attending the sessions for the new group members this spring and see themselves as role models.

Enrollment has grown. When the programme was first offered last spring, 27 boys participated. This year, 38 are enrolled.

Every Saturday, the Real Men meet for two hours and talk about the facts of life, the realities of child support and responsibilities of caring for a family.

"A lot of the young ones don't know what many of the terms mean," Johnson said. "And what they don't know can hurt them. Some of them are scared to have the conversations with their parents and they feel comfortable talking with us."

The group leader for the project is Tony Olden, 30, a social worker who grew up in a neighbourhood near Lemoyne-Owen, just like most of those

participating in the Real Men programme.

"I came from a single-parent home and had to look up to somebody else for a role model," Olden said. "The black community is really lacking because there are not enough role models. The kids need to know that if you see guys walking down the street with gold chains, these are not role models."

Discussions

Olden said discussions in the programme are frank.

"There are kids 13 years old out there making babies," Olden said. "We tell them if you're going to be sexually active, you need to practice birth control. And we talk about birth-control methods."

But Olden said Real Men goes beyond birth control.

"We talk to them about setting goals and the importance of education."

Happy birthday



Arslan Zafar turned 9 on February 28.



Joel Colaso turned 11 on February 24.



Mohammed Razak turns 2 on February 28.



Stephanie Dias turns 6 on February 29.



Muhammed Baqer on February 28.



Renu Swamidas turns 7 on February 28.



Roshan Vasani turned 5 on February 26.



Sana Mohiuddin turns 2 today, February 27.



Sameera Imiyaz turns 1 on February 28.



Shefaliya Jeevaraj turned 6 on February 25.



Toseef Qutbuddin turned 8 on February 23.



Vivin Mathew turned 8 on February 22.



Shalan Rasquinha turns 5 today, February 27.



Shanan Rasquinha turns 5 today, February 27.

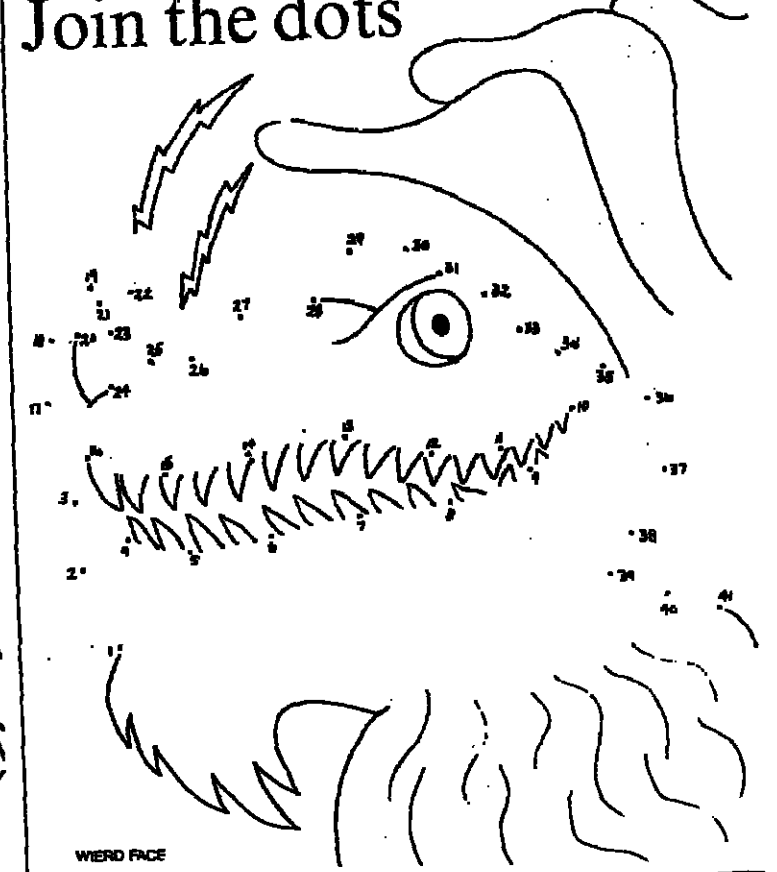


Yasmin and Mamdah Sayed El-Gamal held a small party recently to celebrate their birthdays. Many of their friends and neighbours attended the party and the children received beautiful presents. Happy birthday.

Colour Time



Join the dots



WORD FACE

Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!
Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.
The details we need are:

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____

School: _____

Telephone: _____
(confidential)

Your favourite
most recent
picture
(4x6)

Send to:
ARAB TIMES
Junior Times
P.O. Box 2270
13023, Safat,
Kuwait
To avoid belated greetings please send within a week before the special date

Variety

Marine research

Studying how things work in the ocean

PACIFIC GROVE, Calif.: In a darkened room of the Point Lobos, a research ship on northern California's Monterey Bay, a marine biologist and two geologists scrutinize a video monitor. All morning, the ship has crossed the Monterey Canyon, a gaping breach in the continental shelf similar in size to the Grand Canyon.

Now a video camera, almost 300 feet below, transmits pictures of an underwater landscape or "slump" that has occurred on the canyon wall.

The scientists are excited. Although swirling debris from the loose wall often obscures the images, these are almost certainly the first pictures ever taken of a marine canyon slump soon after a major earthquake — in this case, the 7.1 temblor that shook the San Francisco region in October.

"The Monterey Canyon provides an opportunity to study a well-represented area on the earth's surface — cold, deep water — very close to home," says Chuck Baxter, a biologist from the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI), which owns the ship. "We can get to this terrain 10 nautical miles from our dock, as opposed to 100 miles or so on the East Coast. We are taking some of the highest-quality deep-sea images in the world."

The live images are not only shown on three different screens in the control room, but simultaneously in MBARI's offices on shore. Every minute is recorded on broadcast-quality videotape, narrated on the spot by the oceanographers aboard.

"Usually, it would take me a month just to apply for a boat, and actual research wouldn't take place until many weeks later," says Gary Greene, a marine geologist with the United States Geological Survey and Moss Landing Marine Labs. "This excursion is a good example of what a private foundation can do," Greene says.

The newest of five research organisations in the Monterey Bay region, MBARI operates on a multimillion-dollar grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation based in Los Altos, Calif.

The institute's mandate is "establishing a system concept for the ecology of Monterey Bay." Through observation and measurements, researchers will try to determine how the mix of sun and wind, phytoplankton and marine animals, topography and ocean currents, work together.

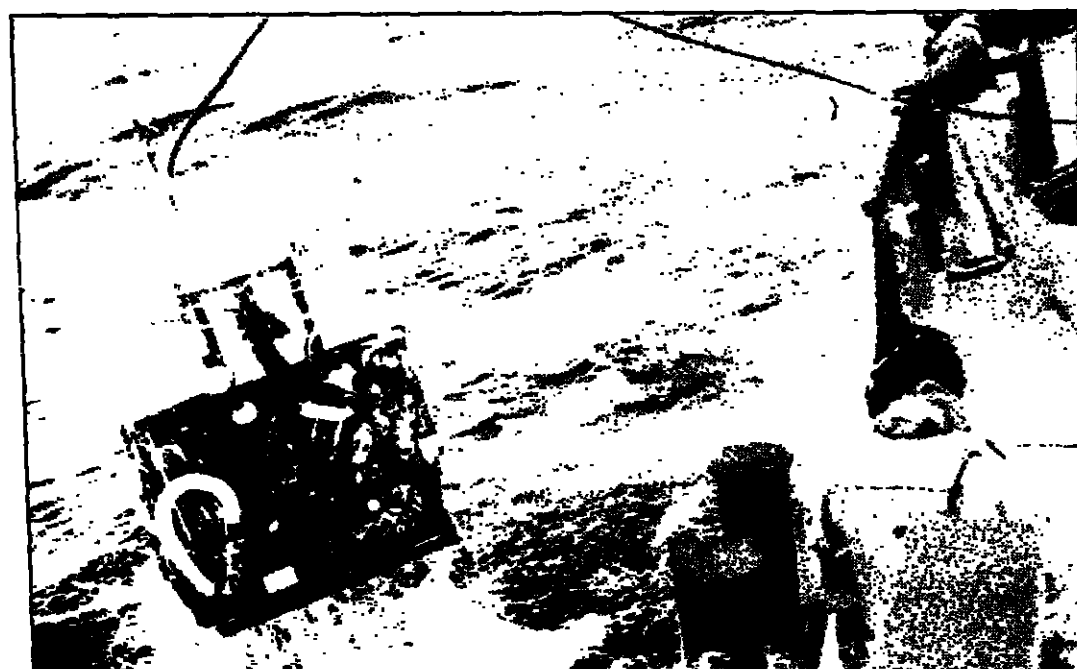
With its long-term funding, MBARI is able to pursue long-term goals, while encouraging collaboration, not competition, among scientists in related fields.

"Oceanographers vie for funding from just two major sources: the National Science Foundation and the Office of Naval Research," says Dick Barber, executive director of MBARI. "While this system rewards creative, aggressive individuals with three-year grants, it has discouraged interdisciplinary work and long-term thinking."

Barber says a long-term study of an oceanic ecosystem is overdue, pointing out that humankind is modifying, if not abusing, a terrain that represents two-thirds of the earth's surface. Scientists have little information on how oceans operate. Whether the issue is global warming or ocean dumping, they don't know enough to accurately forecast the consequences.

"Being terrestrial animals, we have a much better understanding of how terrestrial systems work," says Barber. "But in the ocean, we don't have that expertise. The US maintains only about 10 buoys on both coasts, and they report wind and wave conditions, but no subsurface ocean properties. Because we look closely at oceanic ecosystems for just short periods, we have only an abstract notion of how these systems operate."

Other scientists agree. "Right



Crew of the research ship Point Lobos retrieves a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) from Monterey Canyon off the California coast.

now, the few long-term data we have are from fisheries, which have recorded fluctuations in stock. But MBARI is fairly unique in that it is studying an entire ecosystem," says Mike Reeve, head of the Ocean Sciences Research Section of the National Science Foundation.

"We know, for example, that global warming from increased carbon dioxide emissions can potentially raise sea levels, change ocean currents, and even dramatically redistribute weather patterns," he says. "But only by looking at an oceanic ecosystem in great detail over many years can we sort out genuine long-term trends from mere statistical noise." Aboard the Point Lobos, the first thing that strikes a visitor is the remotely operated vehicle, or ROV, perched on its deck. With its tangle of wires, mechanical arm, and video camera lens peering out the front, the ROV looks like a creature of George Lucas.

"The problem with studying the ocean is two-fold: We have difficulty staying there and trouble getting deep," Mr Barber says. "Both can be addressed by remote-sensing devices. As the Alvin project at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution has proven, sending people down in submersibles is certainly possible and worthwhile, but also very difficult and expensive. We think it's better over the long term to learn about the ocean by deploying sensors to be our eyes and ears."

On this November morning,

MBARI scientist Baxter is accompanied by two marine geologists, Greene and colleague Mike Ledbetter, who have more than a professional interest in locating underwater slumps. Both have associations with Moss Landing Marine Labs, which was built on a spit at the head of Monterey Canyon. The California earthquake opened a six-inch crack in the floor of that facility, large enough to reach in and scoop out sand. The geologists theorize that the seismic activity that condemned the buildings has also taken place further down the canyon walls.

The first order of business is to locate a probable area where slumps might have occurred. To do this, the ship slowly traverses the canyon with a series of one-mile sweeps. On the bridge, the three researchers and the first mate stare intently at an instrument called a bathymetric profiler. The device plots the profile of the ocean floor by emitting high-frequency sounds and gauging the depth by their echo. As we crisscross the channel, a series of deep arches is plotted on the paper, and the geologists look for slight irregularities that may indicate a landslide.

After several hours of searching, the researchers agree on a spot. Technicians unlatch the ROV and deploy it with a crane. The ROV is linked to the boat with a long tether containing electric cords and fibre-optic cables for sending images. A pilot controls it from the ship's

control centre using a joystick — a more elaborate version of the device used on video games. For several hours, there is no sign of a slump. Buffeted relentlessly by the current, the canyon wall has the uniform texture of carpet. But in the midafternoon, we come across an area that has clearly slid. Clouds of small fish swirl above, attracted by the newly exposed nutrients.

"This is living geology," says Greene. "We're used to thinking in terms of eons, but here is activity that has taken place over the past few weeks. We can't absolutely say that it's related to the earthquake, but it's a good working assumption."

The voyages of the Point Lobos are the most visible part of MBARI's activities, but the task of making the data it collects available to researchers will be its legacy. Barber notes that science, in general, has become very good at gathering data, but less successful at making them accessible.

"For example, from 1979 through 1986, a satellite sensor called the Coastal Zone Colour Scanner took magnificent pictures of the ocean — with results a hundred times better than expected," he explains. "But we are only now getting around to making those images available to researchers. A similar thing happened with Alvin, the manned submersible that revolutionised deep-sea biology. We now have thousands of wonderful pictures, but no central index to them."

Christian Science Monitor.

Coping with stress

Think happy and keep smiling

DIVORCEE Vera Peiffer has a framed photograph on her desk of a smiling mother with a chubby baby. That picture represents 35-year-old Vera's proudest professional achievement.

Because without her skills as a hypno-therapist, six-month-old Jeremy would never have been born — his mother and four miscarriages before coming to Vera for help.

"She was five months pregnant and terribly worried that she would lose this baby, too," Vera told me.

To help the woman realise her dream of becoming a mother, Vera used a positive-thinking technique she invented for herself when going through the agonies of divorce.

It was the same method she now uses to help people achieve anything from a happy honeymoon to a successful driving test.

Attractive Vera, who has no children of her own, made up a special tape for the woman to play every day at home. It told her to be confident, to relax and to look forward to an easy delivery.

And it worked. Vera told me in her garden office in West London: "This lady was tense and haemorrhaging when she first came to me. I was convinced she was about to lose this baby, too."

"I was determined this wouldn't happen, so I worked out a whole programme just for her."

I wrote her a tape which played for about an hour and which the patient could sit down, relax and listen to. I wanted to build up the woman's confidence and the tape's message was "you'll be fine, the baby will be great, there's nothing to worry about."

And six months ago Vera was overjoyed to hear that her client had given birth to a healthy baby boy. One of the first people the new mother contacted was Vera. She told her: "Thanks from the bottom of my heart. It's because of you that I have my lovely baby."

Vera, who had been teaching people to think happy thoughts for two years, needed her girlfriend's heart after a romance broke up.

She told me: "This woman, in her mid-thirties, was devastated when her boyfriend told her their



Author Vera Peiffer: power of positive thinking

relationship was over. She was in tears, never went out socially and believed she was ugly and unwanted. But really, my friend was a bright, attractive person with a wonderful personality."

So German-born Vera made up one of her magic tapes for the patient to play every day. Soon the message started working...

The listener was told on the tape that she was pretty, desirable and should get out and about once more. The idea sank in, the girl joined some clubs and evening classes — and now she has met the man she thinks is Mr Right.

It was one of the many happy endings in brunette Vera's casebook.

First date

Another of her tapes is designed to ensure a happy beginning... on a first date. It tells the nervous person — among other things — to stand in front of a mirror for an hour, telling themselves they are desirable, will be able to speak easily to their date and, above all, will have a good time.

"I've had plenty of successes with people going on second and third dates," said Vera.

And if wedding bells ring, she offers advice on how to achieve post-nuptial bliss... on the honeymoon, believed to be one of the most stressful times in a person's life.

Vera told me: "I advise newlyweds to think about the holiday before setting off. I tell them to

imagine they and their partner will be happy and relaxed and that lovemaking will be pleasurable."

"If they think these positive thoughts beforehand, they'll have a blissful honeymoon once they reach their destination."

She also helps out with another stressful situation — taking your driving test. With one of her easy-to-listen tapes, Vera tries to get the listener in the right frame of mind to pass with ease.

"Most people spend the hour before the test thinking about what can and will go wrong," she told me. "They work themselves into such a state they've failed the test before the exam has even begun."

Incentive

"I tell them to mentally go through the main manoeuvres, such as a three-point turn, reversing round a corner and parking. If they can do this perfectly in their head, there is no reason why they shouldn't be able to drive well, once they're in a car."

"Another incentive that people react to is the thought of how friends and family will feel when they have passed."

Vera who makes it sound so easy, explained: "The subconscious mind affects the way in which you deal with a crisis. If you can control the mind you are able to control your thoughts and make them work for you."

At her stress-management and positive-thinking workshops at the London Business School, highly-stressed businessmen undergo sessions of being fed "happy thoughts" and emerge as much calmer people.

Vera said: "My own tests show that these men, who seem to be under a lot of pressure at work, become more efficient and happier once they had learned to control their thoughts and listening to my tapes gradually became second nature to them."

Experiments held at London's St Thomas' Hospital two years ago show that patients who listened to happy tapes, similar to mine, made a quicker and better recovery from hysterectomy operations, so I believe it works."

POSITIVETHINKING by Vera Peiffer is published by Element Books, £6.95.

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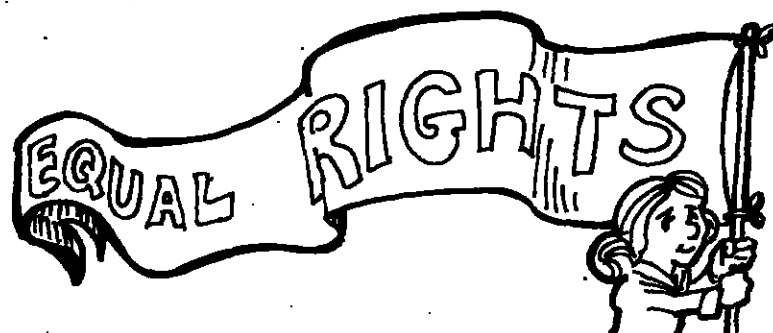
February 15th

Directions: Use the code chart on the right to help you discover the missing words. Exchange the numbers beneath the spaces for letters.

SUSAN BROWNELL ANTHONY

Born in Adams, Massachusetts, in 1820, Susan B. Anthony was raised by _____ parents in rural New York State before devoting all her energies to campaigns for temperance, abolition of slavery, and women's rights. To test the legality of women's _____ under the 14th _____ granting citizenship to the Negro, she voted in the November 1872 elections. She was arrested, convicted of illegal voting, and fined \$100 but never paid it, later declaring she "would ignore all laws to protect an enslaved _____".

From 1892 to 1900 she was _____ of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, retiring when she was 80. Fourteen years after her _____ in 1906, the 19th Amendment giving women the vote was _____ by the States.



CODE
1 A
2 B
3 C
4 D
5 E
6 F
7 G
8 H
9 I
10 J
11 K
12 L
13 M
14 N
15 O
16 P
17 Q
18 R
19 S
20 T
21 U
22 V
23 W
24 X
25 Y
26 Z

Dear Junior Readers,
A good habit to develop when you are young is to be on time or punctual when you are meeting someone.
As students you know the importance of turning assignments in on time. It is equally important to be punctual when meeting friends when a time has been set.

Time is very precious and it is inconsiderate to waste other people's time by keeping them waiting. Try to be punctual not only when you meet friends but when you go out with your mother and father as well.
Practise being on time now and you will establish a worthwhile lifetime habit.

Mona

Just for laughs!

This man came up to me in the street. He said, "Do you know I'm a donkey?"
I said, "You're taking me for a ride."

"Did you hear about this dalmatian that ran onto the pitch near the end of the Cup Final and tripped a man up?"
"No, what happened?"
"The referee pointed to the spot."

My dad was talking to the man next door. He said we saw this yacht race on holiday. And one yacht did a foul and the crowd cheered.

The man next door said, "You don't mean 'moored' surely? You mean 'boored'?"
My dad said, "No, it was Cowes week."

The shopkeeper said, "Yes, but we thought if we sold them to you on Tuesday, we'd run out on Wednesday."
And that's just what we did."

Amazing facts

About inventions and discoveries

The world's most economical petrol-engined vehicle's capacity is only 15cc, and in 1984 it completed 3,803 miles on a single gallon of fuel at the Silverstone racing circuit in England, travelling at between 21 and 35km/h (13-22mph).

The world's first general purpose electronic computer, called EINAC, contained 19,000 valves, producing as much heat as 150 electric fires. The first commercially available computer was built in 1950 and cost around £1,000,000; today, only 35 years later a similarly powerful table-top model can be bought in the shops for about £100.

The first commercial ship to use sails as a means of propulsion to be launched for more than 50 years began sea-trials in 1980. The 1,600-ton Japanese tanker Shin-Aitoku Maru uses huge rigid sails, controlled by electric motors linked to a computer, as well as ordinary engines, to save fuel. It has been estimated that if all the commercial shipping in the world were powered in this way, as much as 150 million tonnes of oil might be saved every year.

One of the first showers was installed at Chatsworth, the home of the English aristocrat the Duke of Devonshire. The device required somebody to pump it by hand. Steam baths became popular in the 1890s, in a design that could only be opened from the outside. This meant that there was no escape for the bather if the fire providing the steam got out of control!

A giant 'Jumbotron' television was constructed by the Japanese firm Sony in 1985, measuring 42m (138ft) in height and with an area of over 1,000sqm (10,000sqft). The smallest colour television produced to date has a screen 38mm (1.5in) across.

The 18th-century English astronomer Sir Edmund Halley, who gave his name to Halley's Comet, also invented the diving bell. It was a large wooden barrel filled with air and weighted so it would sink. Extra air was supplied from barrel sunk to a lower level than the main bell and attached to it by a pipe. Divers could leave the chambers and walk on the river bottom while breathing air through a tube.

At Wuppertal in Germany, the river valley is too narrow for an underground railway, so a mono-rail system has been built running above the streets and waterways, instead of below.

In 1919, an Italian engineer called Caproni built a giant 9-wing, 100-seater, seaplane. Unfortunately, it was too heavy to fly.

The world's first motorcycle was made of wood. It was built by the German, Gottlieb Daimler, in 1885, and was used to test his new four-stroke petrol engine.

The great iron sailing ships known as 'windjammers' had over 60 tonnes of rigging and carried over an acre (0.4 hectares) of sail. Despite having all this gear to manage, they often had only small crews. There is a record of one sailing round Cape Horn with only 19 men aboard.

The forerunner of the modern bicycle was the velocipede, demonstrated in Paris in 1817, which looked like a bike, but was propelled by the rider's feet running along the ground. It was not until 1839, when Kirkpatrick MacMillan added some pedals, that the modern bicycle was invented.

Crossing the Irish Sea — by Volkswagen!

Sail rail: Early travellers on the Kansas-Pacific railroad in the United States used the wind to propel them.

The Skiing Secret

12 -12	13 -1	13 -6			
11 -2	15 -5	4 -2		13 -13	12 -8
					20 -15
16 -8	3 -2	14 -3		2 -0	
12 -6	10 -5	8 -5		6 -3	17 -17

Find the answers to the problems. Look at the "key." Find the answers and letters that go together. Write the correct letter that goes with each answer above the problem.



KEY			
Answers	-Letters	Answers	-Letters
12	- u	5	- i
11	- w	4	- k
10	- a	3	- l
9	- c	2	- n
8	- d	1	- o
7	- e	0	- s
6	- h		

Frank and Sandra

By Julie Hodgson

ON a real dusty morning when the wind got up during the night, and all the leaves and sand swirling around, Frank and Sandra looked out of their bedroom window and sighed.

"Oh no, not another sand storm!" complained Frank.

Sandra went into her parents' bedroom to see if they were awake. Her father had gone to work and her mum was making breakfast, there was a lovely smell of coffee in the apartment, and her mum was making toast.

After Frank and Sandra had their breakfast they got dressed, decided to go out on their bikes, and brave the dusty wind.

"Trouble is," said Frank. "It's windy but hot, so we can't get wrapped up against the wind."

"You could wear a plastic rubbish bag" giggled Sandra.

"Ha, ha," Frank replied and promptly stuck his tongue out.

Frank and Sandra were two lovely children. They were from Denmark, but lived in Salmiya, Kuwait, with their parents. They both had blonde hair and Frank was the eldest being 8, and Sandra 6.

When they got out of the lift, they both rode off towards the swimming pool

area. It was covered in sand. All of a sudden Frank heard a soft meowing, in the corner of the little garden.

They propped their bikes beside the fence, and ran over to the strange noise.

"Ahhh look," said Sandra "it's a kitten!" The poor little thing was hiding behind a bush, shaking with fear.

"Come on kitty" whispered Sandra. The kitten went to Sandra and crawled sleepily into her hand. It looked starved. Sandra put the kitten in the front basket of her bike, and with Frank following her, they headed for home, to give it some warm milk and tuna, if their mum said it was okay.

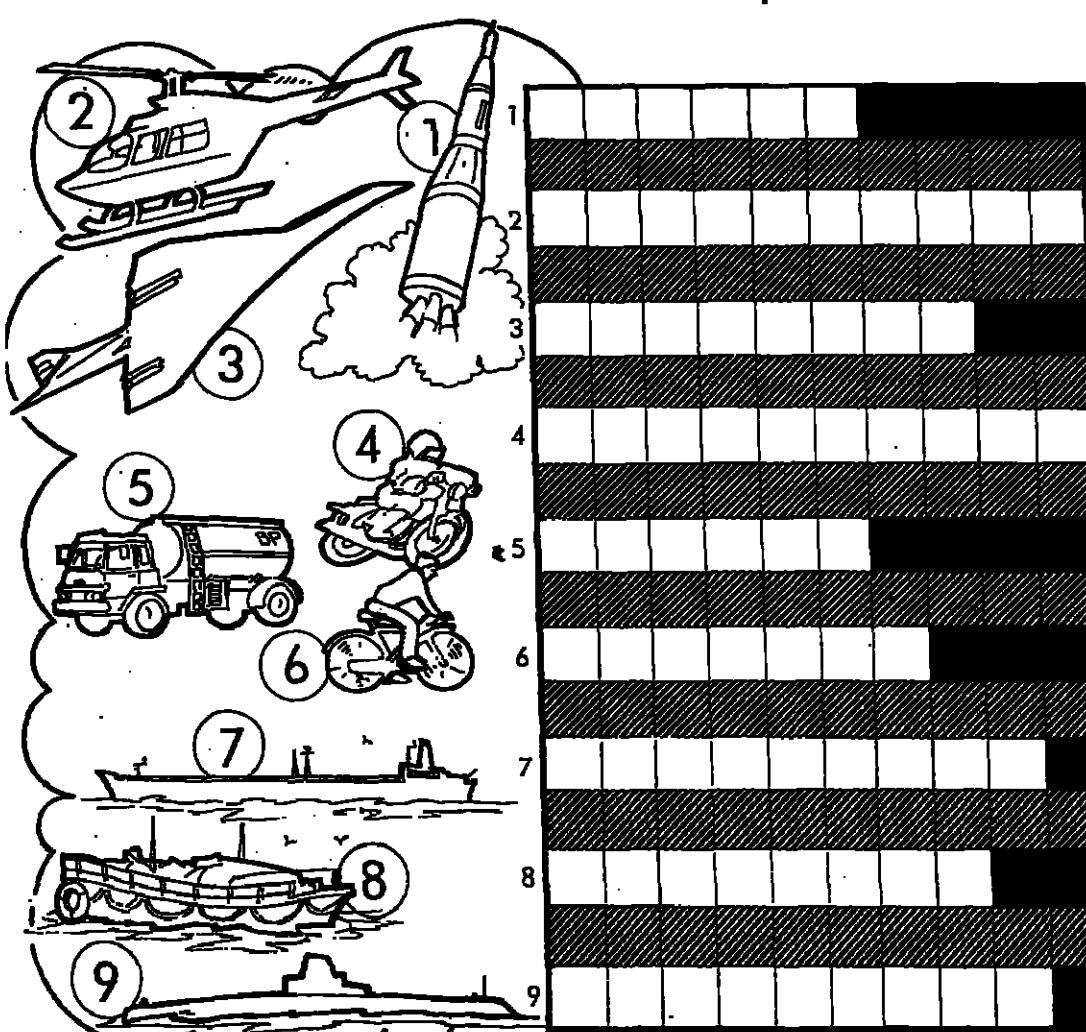
Now when they got home, Frank and Sandra's mum was very understanding and helped them feed it. For the whole afternoon Frank and Sandra played with the kitten not caring about going outside. Sandra suddenly said, "we must give it a name" they thought for a bit and Frank said "I know let's call it Winnie after our mum, as she did help us."

"What a super idea" she agreed. So they named their kitten Winnie. Their mum thought it was a strange name for a kitten, and she laughed when they told her.

"What will you two find next" said their mum, shaking her head laughing.

Land, sea and air

Write the words. Colour the pictures.



I like travelling in a _____
or on a _____

Writer's handbook — Part I

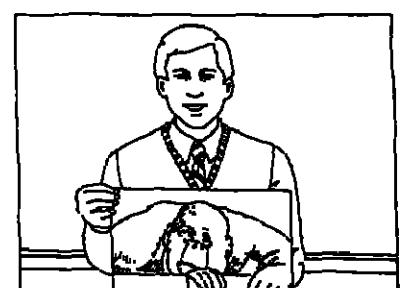
There are four steps in writing.
Each step helps to make writing better.
A good writer should not skip any step.

1. Prewriting

This step comes before you write.
It helps you get ideas for writing.
Look at four ways to get ideas for writing.



Listen to a story.



Look at a picture.



Talk.



Read.

Wordsearch
AQUARIANS ALL

AARON (Hank)	JOYCE (James)
ALDA (Alan)	KITT (Eartha)
ALLEN (Mel)	LEMMON (Jack)
BELUSHI (John)	LEWIS (Sinclair)
BLAIR (Linda)	LOUISE (Tina)
BLAKE (Eubie)	LUPINO (Ida)
BROKAW (Tom)	MUDD (Roger)
BUTTONS (Red)	NEWMAN (Paul)
COLE (Natalie)	NOVAK (Kim)
COOPER (Alice)	REAGAN (Ronald)
CRABBE (Buster)	REYNOLDS (Burt)
DICKENS (Charles)	RUSK (Dean)
DRU (Joanne)	SMOTHERS (Tom)
FARROW (Mia)	STARR (Bella)
FAWCETT (Farrah)	STAUBACH (Roger)
FLACK (Roberta)	STEIN (Gertrude)
GABOR (Zsa Zsa)	THANT (U)
GREELEY (Horace)	TILDEN (Bill)
HOFFA (Jimmy)	TUBB (Ernest)
	VEECK (Bill)

A B G D G R E E L E Y B D N C
F B R O K A W H V E E C K S O
F U E K A L B C K A V O N N O
A T S B U T T O N S K O I E M
R U T T I K I L R J R P L K H
R E A G A N C E I A U E Q C A
O T Y F S R H A A L P R A I Q
W U E N F T R T L B F B T D U
T J V A O O I A B F U E T R A
N O M M E L H D E A L L E N R
A Y S W D O D D T C A U C G I
H C W E Z U K S I L D S W M U
T E N N M I S I W E L H A H S
X N I E T S Y J S O A T F R N
C R A B B E U P T X V Z Y W Q

Firsts and lasts

Cymbals, which originated from Turkish military bands, had their first orchestral use in 1680 as a percussion instrument.

Our alphabet has grown from one that was first used by the Phoenicians, 3,500 years ago.

The first modern methods of building roads began in the late eighteenth century. Until then, the last time roads in Europe had been in such good shape had been over 1,000 years earlier, before the collapse of the Roman Empire.

When we are first born, our skulls are made of 29 separate bones. As we grow older, these slowly join together to form a solid mass.

BLONDIE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



AGATHA CRUMM



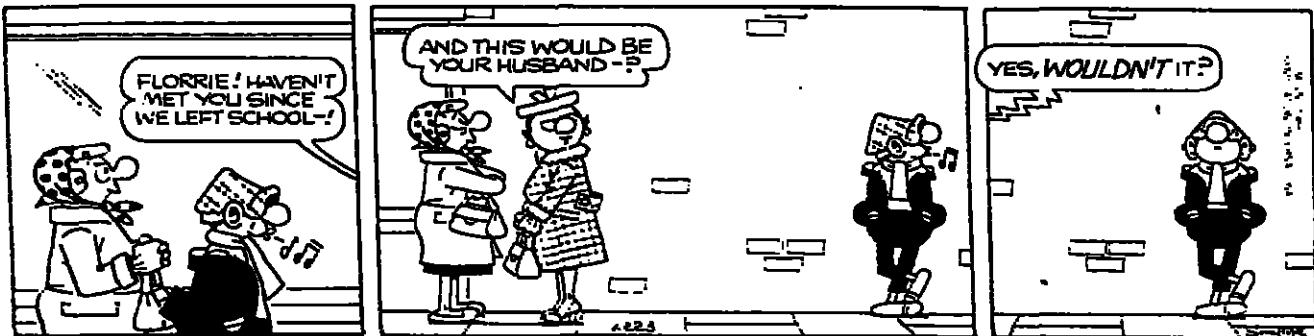
BEETLE BAILEY



THE WIZARD OF ID



ANDY CAPP



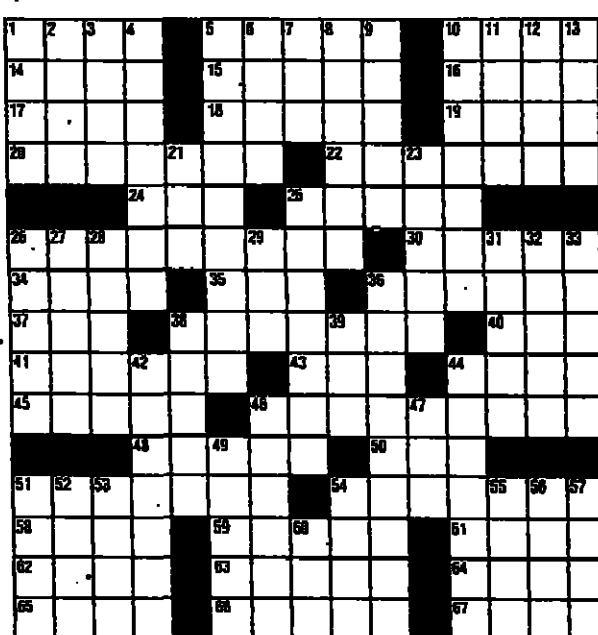
B.C.



HE-MAN



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1 Rip
 - 5 Members of the British peerage
 - 10 Deadly snakes
 - 14 Poker starter
 - 15 Harden
 - 16 "Performance": Tudor ballet
 - 17 Summer Olympics arena
 - 18 Started
 - 19 Algerian port
 - 20 Eagerly desires
 - 22 Releasing
 - 24 Demasor
 - 25 Not capable
 - 26 Banners
 - 30 Strong right hands
 - 34 Injury
 - 35 Gaffer's need
 - 36 Render powerless
 - 37 Violinist Bull
 - 38 Aspic
 - 40 Top dog, in bus
 - 41 Added coloring
 - 43 Bulgarian coin
 - 44 Tired's companion
 - 45 Give rise to
 - 46 Take turns
 - 48 Incongruity
 - 50 Early auto
 - 51 Like tail
 - 54 Repeat
 - 58 Extremely dry
 - 59 Watered silk
 - 61 Continue to hold
 - 62 Visit
 - 63 Stage direction
 - 64 Sea eagle
 - 65 Fashion magazine
 - 66 Marsh plants
 - 67 Mother
- DOWN
- 1 Cap, in Madrid
 - 2 Son of Seth
 - 3 Over all
 - 4 Trustful
 - 5 Set free
 - 6 Singles thumbs
 - 7 Oriental or Persian
 - 8 Saps
 - 9 Feel
 - 10 South American rodents
 - 11 Delhi garb
 - 12 Scheme
 - 13 Spilled the beans
 - 21 Disposed of
 - 23 Where Isabella ruled
 - 25 Perfectly
 - 26 Speculations
 - 27 Spring bloom
 - 28 Sporting site
 - 29 Uncle or aunt: Abbr.
 - 31 Ancient country
 - 32 Upright
 - 33 Kind of signal
 - 36 Entertainers
 - 38 Artistic style
 - 39 Asian holiday
 - 42 — one's
 - 44 Scuba diver's need
 - 46 Whoever
 - 47 Female ruff
 - 49 Abalone
 - 51 Rate of movement
 - 52 Kind of exam
 - 53 Last testament
 - 54 Angry
 - 55 Dynamic beginning
 - 56 Care for
 - 57 Fencing sword
 - 60 Resident of: Suffix

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

A NECESSARY PRECAUTION

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ 8 7 3
♥ A K 8 7 4
♦ A Q 10
♣ Q 10

WEST
♠ K 10 4
♥ Q 3
♦ K 9 5
♣ A K J 6 3

EAST
♠ 9 5
♥ J 9 6 2
♦ 7 6 3 2
♣ 9 7 4

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 6 2
♥ 10 5
♦ J 8 4
♣ 8 5 2

The bidding:
West North East South
1 NT Dbl Pass Pass
2 ♣ Pass Pass 3 ♣
Pass 4 ♣ Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣

The bridge world is still resisting the onslaught of computers as competitors. While chess-playing computers have already defeated grandmasters, no bridge-playing computer can hold its own against a good club player. This hand, for instance, would be completely out of reach of any computer.

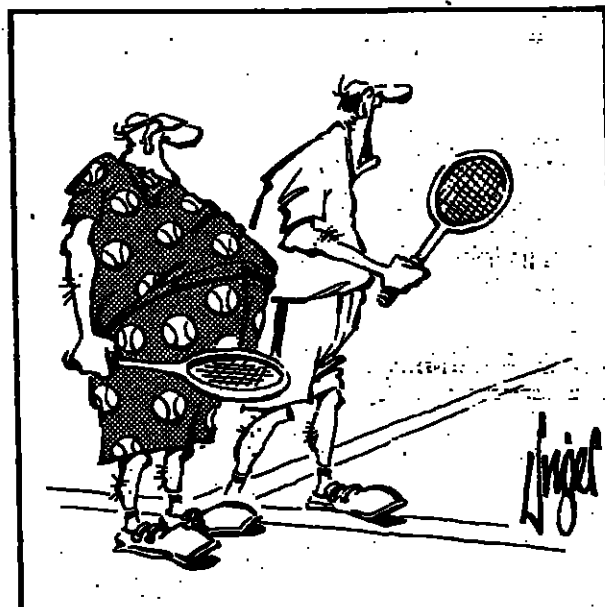
South's jump to three spades was intended as an invitational bid, since

he could have cue-bid three clubs to create a game force. However, North must have taken it as forcing. How else could you justify raising to game with 15 points, of which 2 rated to be wasted?

The defenders started with three rounds of clubs, declarer ruffing the third in dummy. A bridge computer might recognize the danger of a trump promotion and realize a trump finesse would be a waste of time since West had to have every major missing high card to open one no trump. Therefore, the computer might play a trump to the ace and continue with the queen, losing to West's king.

A good defender would now defeat the spade game by exiting with a heart. Declarer cannot get back to hand to draw the last trump and take the diamond finesse without promoting West's ten of spades to the setting trick.

A competent declarer would foil this defense. After cashing the ace of spades, the right technique is to play off the ace and king of hearts before continuing with a trump to the queen. West still takes the king, but now there is no way of preventing declarer from getting to hand to draw the outstanding trump and take the diamond finesse.



"Is this allowed?"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

POPE RATS GIRL
AMAN ELIAS AMIE
PALE VOLGA RATE
ARM LIFTA FINGER
BEAST FREES
CHIESE TAROT
HEALS COLON ARE
ARCIS ROMAN BLOT
RAH METES FELLA
RICES CARTEL
SITELA DOUGH
KNUCKLEDOWN UPS
NINE LAINE SMEE
ODES STEER ABRA
TESS STES OSTIS

YOUR STARS



Aries
March 21 - April 20
You will have plenty to do, but do not get flustered, just get on with it. Do not become involved in a quarrel between married friends. Avoid acting as though everything were quite definite — unless it is. Be moderate.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20
You are liable to get into a muddle and should do your utmost to keep things simple. If you are not careful you will create more problems than you will solve. Have a good laugh at yourself. Be truthful.



Libra
Sept 23 - Oct 22
You will have to deal with a technical problem but if you are logical you will be able to do so. Not every thing is in your favour and it would be silly to think it is. Avoid confusing what is with what is not important. Be less impulsive.



Capricorn
Dec 21 - Jan 19
There will be some small inconvenience but you must allow it to get out of proportion. Your lucky numbers are 9 and 23. Make sure you do not do anything positively detrimental to your health. Show a little more goodwill. Be fair.



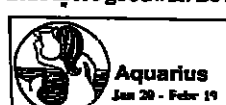
Taurus
April 21 - May 20
You are likely to draw the wrong conclusions so beware. Make sure that you do not take too much for granted and do all you can to avoid jumping to conclusions. Love as much as you would wish to be loved. Be alert.



Leo
July 21 - Aug 22
You will have what seems like a good idea but it will turn out not to be. You will be able to achieve some good results. Do not expect to get your own way in all things. Be moderate.



Scorpio
Oct 23 - Nov 22
You will find it hard not to lose before you can walk — don't. Try not to let yourself be intimidated nor try to do so to others. Take good care of your personal appearance. Be reasonable.



Aquarius
Jan 20 - Feb 19
You should not be excessively suspicious nor too ready to trust others. Attend to detail but do not lose sight of essentials. Do not be so ready to believe what you would like to believe or you will delude yourself. Be thankful.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20
You are rather given to exaggeration and should do your best to refrain. Try not to take on any commitments you would find it hard if not impossible to keep. Avoid making things yet more complicated. Be sincere.



Virgo
Aug 23 - Sept 22
You are likely to encounter some emotional problems and should try to see things from other people's point of view, too. Do not make excuses for yourself and admit it if you are wrong. Do not expect others to be too benevolent towards you. Be reliable.



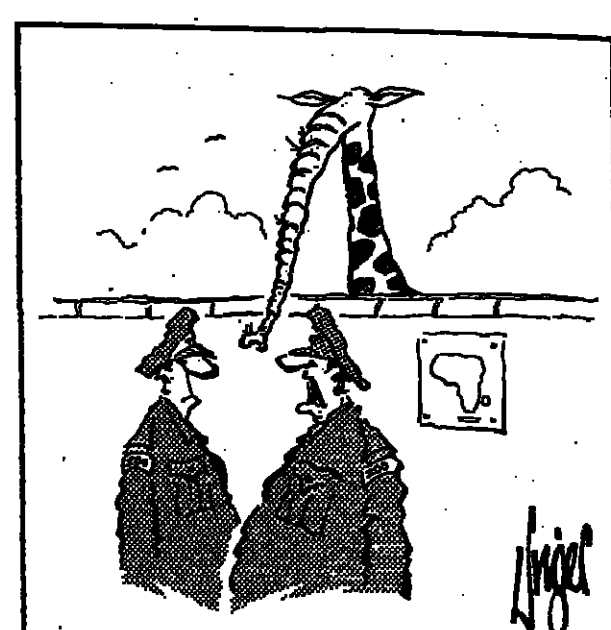
Sagittarius
Nov 23 - Dec 22
You are all too liable to try to run before you can walk — don't. Try not to let yourself be intimidated nor try to do so to others. Take good care of your personal appearance. Be reasonable.



Pisces
Feb 20 - March 20
Do not engage in intrigue and do not say anything about others that is not true. Take just a little more regular and gentle exercise. And avoid eating or drinking more than you know you should. Be careful.



"We're under new management. 'Soup of the day' is a mushroom omelet."



"Remember six years ago when you left the gate open?"

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

Al-Remal Establishment for Teaching Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy.
Discount on the courses (5-15%) starts from 19th Feb. to 3rd March, 90.
Courses start on 3rd March, 90. Monthly payment facilities. Superiorly equipped beauty section directed by qualified hairdressers and beauty therapists.
Al-Jabrya
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- ★ Introducing O.A.S. - no wash system
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- ★ Wedding & family photographs
- ★ Now bring film for D.P. and get gift photograph

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Farwaniya branch
Tel. 4745600, 4745900

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3 to 8 pm only.

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LADIES' SAUNA now offers 50% DISCOUNT on the usual entrance fee of KD 6.000. Ladies' day on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm. KEEP THAT SKIN GLOWING! Come to the Kuwait International.

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Advertising
Department

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4816327

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2 insertions KD 4. Three insertions KD 5

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2. To complete the coupon, follow the sequence of the information given in above printed advertisements, for desired section heading. All advertisements will be printed according to Arab Times format and are subject to editing.
3. Advertisements must not exceed 25 words including name and telephone number.
4. Text must be typed or clearly printed. No alterations or cancellations will be made after publication.
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MAIDAN Hawalli. Room with water and tele. facilities for 2 bachelors, couple or a lady to share with a Goan family. Rent KD60. Tel. 5637891.

(AT3-51632-2)
BENEID AL QAR, behind the International Hotel. Furnished accommodation with tele. facilities for a single Muslim (non-smoker, person). Gulzar Ahmed Khan, 2511368 after 4.30 pm.

(AT3-51659-2)
SALWA, House 196, Block 7, Area 4, one room with water, electricity and separate kitchen for a family or bachelors to share with an Indian family. Rent KD50. Tel. 5611243.

(AT4-51603-3)
HAWALLI, near Dr Nawgiri's Clinic. One room with tele. facilities for bachelors or a couple. Tel. 2628318 after 5 pm.

(AT4-51673-3)
SALMIYA, Khansa St. opp. the Salimiya Club, Building No. 69. One room for 2 bachelors to share with a Goan family. Tel. 5710832 after 12 noon.

(AT4-51662-3)
SALMIYA, Amman Street. One room with tele. facilities for bachelors to share with a family. Tel. 2619530 after 3.30 pm.

(AT4-51668-2)

FOR SALE

Cars

NISSAN half lorry, 1982 model, red, low mileage, in very good condition. Best offer. Tel. Sayed Alvi, 4713185, 9 am - 1.30 pm, 4 - 10 pm.

(AT4-51665-3)
NISSAN Stanza, 1984 model, grey, automatic, AC. Insured for 1 year, hatchback, 4 doors. KD850. Tel. 2452047.

(AT4-51667-3)
TOYOTA Cressida '82, manual, company maintained, single hand driven in very good condition. KD850. Tel. 5327597.

(AT3-51648-3)
OPEL Senator '85 model, light blue, automatic, with AC. KD1,300, ono. Can see near the gate of Al Othman Mosque, Al Othman Street, Nuzha. Tel. 2641624.

(AT3-51680-3)

Miscellaneous

1 TUMBLE dryer, dish washer, 3 piece suite and other household items. All at reasonable prices. Tel. 5718371, after 2.30 pm.

(AT2-51655-3)
FAXPHONE from USA, 110V, transformer included. KD300, monochrome monitor, KD20, keyboard (IBM) KD10. Tel. 5748856

(AT3-51657-3)

DOUBLE bed, with hydraulic system for back and front side elevation, side table lights, IKEA curtains and carpets, plants, frames, small items. Muthanna Complex, Block 5, Floor 10, Apt 1024. Tel. Rafik, 2423680.
(AT3-51656-3)

PETS

PERSIAN cats in attractive colours, 8 weeks old, cute and very friendly, house-trained for sale. Tel. 5741154
(AT1-51641-3)

LOST

SIAMESE cat, male, answers to name of Felix, lost on 25th February in Salwa, Area 5, Street 5. Any information would be appreciated. Tel. 5740258/7, 5625316.
(AT4-KW-TM-3)

PLASTIC bag containing letter, card, photo album with pictures, lost on 13th February at the church or in the car. Reward offered to finder. Tel. Angie, 5717341, mornings.
(AT4-51671-3)

SITUATIONS

Wanted

DENTAL technician employee of a leading West European company in the field, with knowledge of the latest dental technologies, seeks employment. Write to P.O. Box 47148, 64022 Fahaheel, Kuwait. Tel. 3727678.
(AT3-51657-3)

MAID and driver required, preferably Filipino, for a British family, full or part-time. Tel. Nimmi, 2453707, 2404785.
(AT1-51643-2)

SERVICES

Baby Sitting

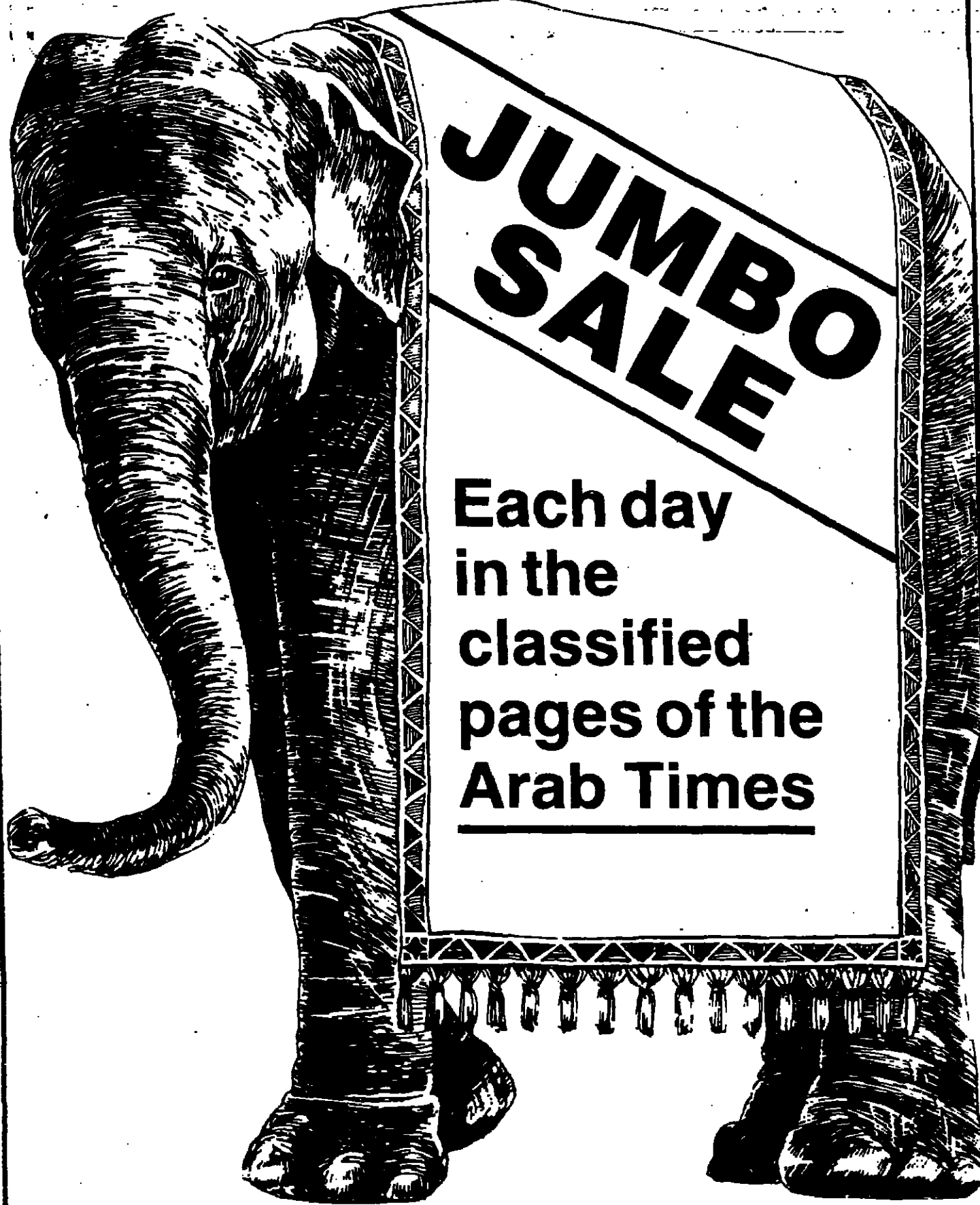
BABYSITTING and nursery available. For details tele. 2541894.
(AT4-51665-3)

BABYSITTING facilities available with an experienced Indian lady in Farwaniya, behind the Holiday Inn, next to Arabic school, Road No. 103. Tel. 4733718, 8 am - 4 pm.
(AT3-51654-3)

Transport

REQUIRED for a lady from Catholic Church to Sharq beside the Pled Centre and back. Office timings: 8 am - 1 pm, 4 - 7 pm. Tel. Lottie, 2456204-208.
(AT3-51653-3)

REQUIRED from Al Sheeb to Kuwait University, Shuwaikha at 8.30 am, 12.45 pm, Saturday to Wednesday only. Tel. S Kohli, 2546958, 2530600, 8 am - 14.15 pm.
(AT4-51664-3)



Each day in the classified pages of the Arab Times

ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS

Oklahoma outclass Missouri

NORMAN, Oklahoma, Feb. 26, (AP) After beating one No. 1 team, Oklahoma is anxious to do it again.

The 10th-ranked Sooners stopped top-rated Missouri 107-90 yesterday for its 44th straight home victory.

Tomorrow night, Oklahoma will play host to Kansas. The Jayhawks are No. 2, but are expected to move up.

"This gives us an opportunity to show we can play and that we're one of the top teams in the country," said Oklahoma's Terry Evans, who had 15 points and 12 assists.

Oklahoma (21-4, 9-3) prevented Missouri (25-3, 11-2) from clinching a share of the big eight championship. Doug Smith had 27 points and 11 rebounds for the tigers.

In other yesterday's games, it was No. 3 Duke 78, No. 21 Arizona 76; No. 11 Syracuse 93, Providence 89; Georgia 86, No. 12 LSU 85; No. 14 LA Salle 74, St. Peter's 66 in overtime; No. 15 Michigan State 72, No. 25 Indiana 66.

In Saturday's games, it was No. 2 Kansas 70, Kansas State 58; No. 4 UNLV 91, No. 16 Louisville 81; No. 5 Georgetown 83, Villanova 53; No. 6 Connecticut 79, Seton Hall 57; No. 7 Michigan 94, Northwestern 69; No. 8 Georgia Tech 88, Notre Dame 80 in overtime; No. 9 Purdue 75, OHIO State 70; No. 17 Oregon State 83, UCLA 74; No. 18 Minnesota 102, Iowa 80; No. 19 Xavier of OHIO 80, Butler 66; No. 22 Loyola Marymount 117, Santa Clara 81; No. 23 Clemson 69, North Carolina 61; No. 24 New Mexico 101, San Jose State 70.

World No. 2 loses only one game

Navratilova crushes Garrison



Navratilova wins 10th Washington title

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26, (Reuters) Top seed Martina Navratilova needed just 50 minutes to claim her 10th title at the \$350,000 Washington tennis tournament with another routine defeat of fellow American Zina Garrison yesterday.

Navratilova routed the second seed 6-1 6-0 to extend her domination of Garrison to 27-1 and take her second title in as many weeks.

The world number two, who first won this event in 1975, has not dropped a set in two tournaments this year. Navratilova produced seven 6-0 sets in that stretch, while dropping just 27 games in nine matches.

Things started to go bad early for the fourth-ranked Garrison

as she double-faulted away the second game of the match and they went downhill from there. Navratilova continually pressured Garrison into ground-stroke errors with an effective net game and controlled all of her own service games.

Garrison, who has won just four sets from Navratilova in 28 meetings including the two she took in her lone upset victory at the 1988 US Open, failed to convert on the five break points she reached against the top seed's serve.

Garrison was able to enjoy Navratilova's punishing net game in the doubles final as they teamed up for a 6-0 6-3 victory over American Ann Henricksson and Dinky van Rensburg of South Africa. It was the 62nd time Navratilova has won the

singles and doubles in the tournament.

After the singles victory, Navratilova said that she is playing better than she expected at this stage of the year.

"I hope I can stay where I am. I'd be happy with that, but I don't think it's likely," said Navratilova, who collected \$70,000 for her singles title and split \$21,000 with Garrison for the doubles.

"The difference between Zina and me has always been our second serves. Mine is better than hers even when I'm serving bad," Navratilova said.

Garrison, who earned \$35,000 plus her share of the double purse said: "I went for too much on my shots, and she kept me on the run. I pressure myself to hit too good a shot."

Frazier downs champion

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma, Feb. 26, (Reuters) Third-seeded American teenager Amy Frazier powered her way past defending champion Manon Bollegraf of the Netherlands 6-4 6-2 to win the \$150,000 Oklahoma tennis tournament yesterday.

Frazier, who upset top seed Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria in the semifinals, earned \$27,000 for her second career title and first big payday.

The 27th-ranked 17-year-old, who turned professional earlier this year, turned down \$72,000 in earnings last year to remain an amateur.

Frazier, who ventured to the net just three times yesterday, blasted away from the baseline to score a third game service break that was all the advantage

she needed to take the first set.

In the second set, however, she broke the 36th-ranked Bollegraf three times by jumping on the fifth seed's second serve for clean winners.

As Maleeva had on Saturday, Bollegraf compared Frazier's powerful groundstrokes to those of West German world number one Steffi Graf.

"No one plays like Amy," said Bollegraf. "No one hits the ball as hard from the baseline as she does, not even Steffi."

Frazier, who won her first title last year in Kansas, was flattered by the comparison, but admitted that her serve needs much improvement before she can give Graf a run for her money.

Sampras takes first career title

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 26, (Reuters) Rising American star Pete Sampras captured his first tournament title yesterday with a 7-6 7-5 6-2 victory over veteran Andres Gomez of Ecuador at the million-dollar US Pro Indoor Tennis Championships.

The 18-year-old 13th seed, the youngest player in the draw, relied on a formidable service game to wear down the seventh-seeded Gomez, who turns 30 tomorrow.

The 32nd-ranked Sampras, who could crack the world's top-20 following yesterday's victory, added \$135,000 to his prior career earnings of \$251,023.

"I don't play for the money. I play for the love of the game," Sampras said.

Gomez, who has won 17 titles in 31 final appearances, collected \$72,600 for being runner-up in this upset-filled event that saw the top three seeds fall before the quarterfinals.

"Probably he's very underrated in America with the likes of (Andre) Agassi and (Michael) Chang," Gomez said.

"I have to say when asked who's the best, Pete is. His game is complete and I don't think Chang and Agassi will ever be as good as him."

Yesterday's final provided little drama as Sampras methodically ground out points against his more experienced adversary. Gomez managed to escape eight break points to force the first setpoint, a tiebreak. But after six mini-breaks, Sampras won the tie-break 7-4 with the help of a sizzling forehand passed the big left-hander to reach set point.

Sampras, who grabbed the attention of the tennis world with a gutsy second-round upset of defending champion Mats Wilander at last year's US Open, took the only break of the next set when Gomez double faulted at 30-40 in the 11th game.

The American, who upset fifth-seeded, two-time champion Tim Mayotte in the quarterfinals, stepped up the pace and cruised through the third set by breaking Gomez in the first and seventh games.

"People will start recognizing me now that I won this tournament," said Sampras, who reached his first professional semifinal two weeks ago in Milan. "I don't mind that. That happens whenever you do well."



Relay event

Klaus Sulzenbacher of Austria in action during the World Cup Nordic combination skiing team 3x10km relay event in Val de Fiemme, Italy on Sunday. Austria won the event. (Reuters wirephoto)

Pistons rout Knicks

NEW YORK, Feb. 26, (AP) Joe Dumars scored 15 of his 31 points in the third quarter as the Detroit Pistons won for the 14th time in 15 games, 98-87 over the New York Knicks yesterday.

The loss was only the third in 25 home games for New York, but all have been runaways. The Knicks lost at home to Phoenix by 14 points on Jan. 2 and to the Los Angeles Lakers by 21 on Jan. 23.

Cavaliers 102, Hornets 86
Chuck Brown finished off a 12-0 Cleveland run with a one-handed Alley-Oop dunk and a free throw in the second quarter, and John Williams' two three-point plays defused a fourth-quarter threat by Charlotte.

The Hornets lost their fourth straight game and their 16th in 17 outings. They doomed themselves with two lengthy scoring droughts, going without a point for more than four minutes late in the first half and again for more than five minutes in the fourth quarter.

Pacers 117, Blazers 112
Reggie Miller scored 35 points and Chuck Person shook off foul trouble to lead a late surge for Indiana against Portland.

Miller had 20 points in the first period, keeping the Pacers in the game early as they missed their first eight shots and 10 of 11 in falling behind 11-2.

Bulls 107, Nets 106
Michael Jordan's 18-foot jump-

Couples triumphs in style

PACIFIC PALISADES, Calif., Feb. 26, (Reuters) Fred Couples pulled away on the back nine to win the million-dollar Los Angeles Open golf tournament by three strokes over Gil Morgan yesterday.

Couples, who equalled the course record of 62 in the third round, shot a final-round two-under-par 69 and finished at 18-under 266 to earn the \$180,000 winner's prize.

Couples, who held a two-stroke lead heading into the final round, trailed playing partner Morgan after the first nine holes. A two-shot swing on the par-five 11th hole, however, put Couples back into the lead.

It was an eight-foot birdie putt following a good bunker shot that returned Couples to the top of the leader board after Morgan missed a putt and had to take a bogey.

Morgan put himself out of contention for the title he had won twice before with a double-bogey six when his tee shot on the 13th hole bounced off a tree and went 30 yards left and out of bounds.

"Gil just didn't make any putts and he got a bad break on that out of bounds tee shot that he didn't deserve," Couples said.

Morgan settled for second place and \$108,000 with a one-under-par 70 for a 269 total. Peter Jacobsen, who shot a five-under 66, finished tied with Rocco Mediate for third place at 14-under-par 270.

Couples finished with a flourish when he sank a 15-foot birdie putt on the final hole.

"I'm glad it's over," Couples said of his fourth career win, but his first title since 1987. "I'm used to playing near the lead, but not used to winning that often."

French make one change

PARIS, Feb. 26, (Reuters) French coach Jacques Fouroux stuck to the team mauling 21-0 by Scotland at Murrayfield eight days ago when he named the players to face Ireland in France's final Five Nations match of the season in Paris on Saturday.

The only change was the recall of Jean Condom in place of flanker Alain Carminati, who was sent off in Edinburgh and suspended for seven months.

The experienced Condom plays as lock with Olivier Roumat switching to flanker. Condom, who has played 57 times for France, last appeared in the first Test defeat by Australia in Strasbourg last November.

Fouroux made wholesale changes to his team after the 26-7 humiliation at the hands of England in Paris three weeks ago, bringing in six new players.

Though the defeat in Scotland ended French hopes of a fifth successive Five Nations title, Fouroux decided to stick with his relatively young side in the hope of turning round a bad run which has seen France lose six of their last eight internationals.

Team - Serge Blanco, Pierre Hontas, Philippe Sella, Franck Mesnel, Patrice Lagisquet, Didier Camberbero, Henri Sanz, Laurent Rodriguez (captain), Olivier Roumat, Jean Condom, Thierry Devergie, Jean-Marc Lhermet, Pascal Odars, Louis Armary, Marc Pujolle.

Ivanчук, now in fourth place behind Nigel Short of Britain, resigned after losing a bishop.

Short played one of the best games of the top-category tournament to beat Boris Gulko of the United States in 33 moves of a Spanish game. Gulko was unable to counter Short's sharp attack on the black king.

Young Soviet grandmaster Gelfand stayed second after 49

moves when one pawn ahead. Former world champion Boris Spassky, a Soviet exile playing for France, achieved his first victory by defeating Miguel Illescas of Spain in only 25 moves in a Budapest opening gambit.

Alexander Beliavsky and Artur Yusupov, both of the Soviet Union, drew. Last-placed Ljubolevic of Yugoslavia drew against Valery Salov of the Soviet Union.

Today's time has been reserved for adjourned games.

Standing after the seventh round: Kasparov six points; Gelfand five; Short 4-1/2, one game adjourned; Ivanчук four; Yusupov 3-1/2, one game adjourned; Beliavsky 3-1/2; Salov three, two games adjourned; Spassky, Gulko 2-1/2; Portisch, Illescas 1-1/2, one game adjourned; Ljubolevic 1-1/2.



Kasparov remains undefeated

Kasparov increases Linares lead

LINARES, Spain, Feb. 26, (Reuters) Soviet world champion Garry Kasparov increased his lead to one point in the Linares International Chess Tournament after his main rival Boris Gelfand drew in the seventh round yesterday.

Kasparov remained the only unbeaten player after inflicting a first defeat on fellow countryman Vassily Ivanчук after 43 moves of a Sicilian defence.

Ivanчук, now in fourth place behind Nigel Short of Britain, resigned after losing a bishop.

Short played one of the best games of the top-category tournament to beat Boris Gulko of the United States in 33 moves of a Spanish game. Gulko was unable to counter Short's sharp attack on the black king.

Young Soviet grandmaster Gelfand stayed second after 49

Jahangir wins squash title

CARDIFF, Feb. 26, (Reuters) World number two Jahangir Khan of Pakistan beat jaded Australian Chris Robertson 15-12 15-6 15-10 in the Welsh Classic squash final yesterday.

Robertson eliminated world champion Jansher Khan in a tough semifinal on Saturday but the effort drained him and he was unable to add another major scalp to his tally.

The Australian was always in with a chance during the first game, but fell away badly in the second and left himself too much to do when he lost the first nine points of the third.

Robertson recovered to 10-14, saving five match balls on the way, but his fightback ended when Jahangir was awarded a stroke that clinched the title.

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KHC cruise past KDD

KPBC brush aside Kay

KPBC crushed Kay & Associates 113-69 to score their second straight victory in the Kuwait Pinyo Basketball League (KPBL) at the Keifan High School Gym on Sunday.

The first half was a close affair with Kay & Associates playing a fine game and setting up Marin and the 'durable' Velayo for close jumpers. They managed to

restrict KPBC to 48-41 with Marin getting 13 points and Velayo 10.

The second half, however, was totally dominated by KPBC, who fielded their main starters — Castro, Domingo, Barcelona, Perez and De La Cruz. In the second KPBC used their height advantage to the maximum on both sides of the court to score 65

points compared to only 28 by Kay & Associates.

The Salimiya Boy-Edwin Castro (re-named the Adan-Roy) once again showed his supremacy under the boards, as he hauled down several rebounds which started the KPBC fast-breaks. He also showed no mercy in swatting away the shots of the smaller Kay players.

When the final buzzer sounded, it was a 44 points win by KPBC over Kay & Associates who again played without their legitimate centre — Bertrand Marin.

Top scores for KPBC were Serrano — the foreigner — with 25, Lito Manuel — the Alaska Baby — with 22, Alejandro with 12, Lito de la Cruz with 10, Fer de la Cruz — the Passy Boy — with 9, Perez with 8, and Domingo — the Carnation Baby — with 8 points, respectively.

The Kay side was led by Marin — the Glider — with 17, Velayo — the Durable — with 12, Atoy Kai with 10, Evangelista with 8, Lonoza and Alvienda with 7 a piece and Quero with 6 points respectively.

Trico International vs Nissan Al Bahrain: The second match of the day was a big surprise as Nissan Al Bahrain won by default (24) over Trico International. Trico International expected to reach the semi-finals could only field 3 of its players (Calaycay, Vargas and Atienza) at game time. It was a big let-down especially to the fans who wanted to see both of them play.

Nevertheless, the KPBL secretariat had to stick to the rules, and Trico was defaulted at 11:20 am (50 minutes after their 10:30 am schedule). Trico coach — Rudy Catubao was very disappointed as he tried in vain to convince Nissan coach — Cris Prillo to wait a little further for his players to show up.

Cris Prillo said: "We regret to

win by default, because my players also want to play. We know a win over Trico is next to impossible, and winning over them by default doesn't help us in any way, because we are picked to finish last in this 1st Conference considering my line-up. We regret to disappoint the crowd, but rules are rules, and they've got to be followed as this is what KPBL stands for.

KHC team manager, David Brooks, who was also present echoed the same sentiments. He said: "I've worked with Filipinos for quite a time now and I'm sorry to say that they've got this bad habit when it comes to schedules. I'm all praises for the KPBL organisers for sticking to the rules, and I hope that it will remain that way no matter who's involved."

KHC-Bayan vs KDD — Kuwait Danish Dairy: KHC-Bayan, another team expected to reach the semifinals stepped to its second win in as many games by outscoring the KDD 5, 104-88.

The match was closer than the scores suggest. Right at the opening buzzer, KHC-Bayan was hounded by KDD. Though KHC was able to control the tempo of the entire ball game, they had their hands full against the foul-prone KDD. Mr X-Ortega was instrumental as always for the KHC side, scattering 24 points in the first half, despite being tightly guarded by KDD's Mr P-izzaro, who at one stage of play blocked the towering Mr X to the delight of the KDD crowd. Half time score was 56-45 in favour of KHC-Bayan.

The second half was a same version of the earlier 20 minutes of the ball game. Though KDD was successful in containing Mr X to only 8 second half points, they left the other KHC players unchecked. Abubou (a former KPBC player — 1988), Lising

and Soliman combined for 27 2nd-half points to support Mr X's total of 32 points. KDD was able to cut the lead to 10 points with 5:08 left in regulation, and had several chances to get closer but a combination of sorry misses, fancy plays and useless fouls doomed their cause.

KHC was quick to take advantage of this by converting each turnover to easy points. Top scorers for KHC were Mr X-Ortega with 32 points, Lising with 15, Abubou with 14, Soliman with 12 and Rosales with 10 points.

In its losing cause, KDD was led by Gutierrez with 16, Sumando with 14, The Rookie-Linganay with 13, DHL-Ramirez with 13, Dominguez and Rue with 10 a piece. Mr P-izzaro had only 8 points all in the first half, as he went out with 5 fouls early in the second half on a useless contact near the mid-court.

Mabuhay Best Players of the Game: 1. Len Serrano (KPBC) — Serrano, nicknamed The Foreigner because of his Arabic features was named the Mabuhay best player of the game for his steady outside shooting in their game vs Kay & Associates. Len, to his friends is a 29 year old heavy equipment operator employed by El Hoss Engineering — Ahmadi. This guard-forward from Florida — Blanca Pampanga loves swimming and dancing (native dances), and is a member of the KPBC basketball squad that won the 1987 KPC Basketball Tournament.

2. Ernesto Soliman (KHC-Bayan): Soliman, is 32 years old, and hails from Dau, Pampanga. This 5'4" — 135 lbs. court general has been employed by the Kuwait Hotels Co. — Bayan Palace this year. He was instrumental in their 104-88 win over KDD, as he wisely distributed the ball to his team-



Two action shots of the game. (Photos by Munzar Hour)

mates, taking shots whenever needed. He finished the game with 12 points, and a number of assists and loose ball recoveries, and for this feat, he was adjudged the Mabuhay Best Player of the Game.

KPBL schedules for Friday, March 2, 1990: 9:00 am — EEL vs Nissan Al Bahrain (1); 10:30 am — KDD vs Overland Trans. Co.

(2); 12:00 pm — Al Ghanim vs KRP (1); 1:30 pm — KPBC vs KHC-Bayan (2).

KPBL meeting: A KPBL meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 8:00 pm, at the Mabuhay Restaurant. All members to the KPBL Board of Governors are requested to attend the meeting which shall centre on the follow-

ing: 1. Schedule of games, 2. Formation of KPBL farm team, 3. KPBL special Liave 1-2-9, 4. Trophies & prizes, 5. Awarding ceremonies.

The Arab Times, starting on Wednesday's issue will take a closer look at all the teams participating in the KPBL 1st conference, 1990 season.



KPBC's Manuel takes a rebound

US rally for 3rd straight Cup victory

SARASOTA, Florida, Feb 26, (AP) — Don Bies set the pace with a 3-under-par round of 69 as the United States rallied from a slow start to win its third consecutive Chrysler Cup yesterday.

The US Seniors beat the International team in four of eight final-round matches and tied three others for a 53.5-30.5 victory at the Tournament Players Club at Prestancia.

The Internationals began the day needing to win five matches for a victory, but they won only one. Each of the individual stroke-play matches was worth 5 points.

The first seven US players to tee off bogeyed the opening hole. That included Bies, who quickly fell two shots behind Roberto Devenzio in the first match of the day but rallied with five birdies to win, 69-72.

In the second twosome, Dave Hill of the United States had three birdies in the final seven holes to beat Bob Charles 70-72.

The other US winners were Lee Trevino, who breezed past Peter Thomson 69-83, and Chi Chi Rodriguez, who beat Billy Dunk 73-77.

Harold Henning was the only winner for the Internationals, beating US captain Arnold Palmer 70-74. Henning, Rodriguez and Trevino all finished the tournament undefeated in three matches.

Each US player won \$50,000, and each international player took home 25,000.

India-New Zealand Test ends in draw

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Feb 26, (AP) — The final cricket Test between New Zealand and India ended today in a draw at the Eden Park pitch, giving the home side the three-Test series.

New Zealand won the first Test while the second was a rain-affected draw.

India finished the rain-hampered fifth and final day today at 149-0, 244 runs short of victory with openers Woorkeri Raman and Manoj Prabhakar having established India's best opening partnership of the series.

Raman was on 72 and Prabhakar 63 when stumps were drawn at 5 pm with no result possible.

New Zealand captain John Wright made his intentions clear when, after rain had delayed play for 45 minutes, New Zealand continued batting with only 79 overs left on the board. Andrew Jones resumed on 144 and Shane Thomson on eight, the total at 416-5.

The pair batted on until shortly before lunch with Jones scoring his 150 in 386 minutes off 419 balls. New Zealand had scored 483-5 with Jones on 170 and Thomson at 43.

New Zealand had set India 393 for victory, a near impossible run-rate of 6.14 per over from 64 overs.

"They scored at 4.7 (per over) in the first innings and we felt our only real chance of winning this game after battling away getting over our 90 run deficit of the first innings was to set a target where India had to go for it and hopefully lose wickets," Wright said.

Indian manager Bishen Bedi agreed with Wright, saying he would have done the same.

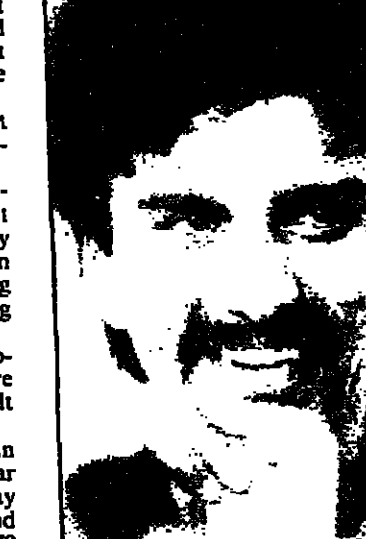
"If we were one up I wouldn't have declared," Bedi said. "It is a disappointment the Test should finish like this. It did deserve a better climax."

Both teams now leave for Dunedin on New Zealand's south island for the first one-day international of a triangular series also involving Australia.

India plays New Zealand on Thursday at Dunedin, Australia take on India Saturday at Christchurch and New Zealand and Australia play Sunday, also in Christchurch.

Scoreboard
WEST INDIES first innings 164 (A. Fraser five for 28)
ENGLAND first innings (overnight 80 for 2)
G. Gooch c Dujon b Patterson 18
W. Larkins lbw b Walsh 46
A. Stewart c Best b Bishop 13
A. Lamb c Hooper b Walsh 132
R. Smith c Best b Bishop 57
N. Hussain c Dujon b Bishop 13
D. Capel c Richardson b Walsh 5
J. Russell not out 12
G. Small lbw b Marshall 4
A. Fraser not out 41
Extras (b-18 lb-12 nb-11) 41
Total (eight wickets) 342
Fall of wickets: 1-40 2-60 3-116 4-288 5-315 6-317 7-325 8-339
To bat: D. Malcolm

Bowling: Patterson 18-2-74-1, Bishop 23-5-68-3, Marshall 18-3-46-1, Walsh 23-4-55-3, Hooper 6-0-28-0, Richards 9-1-22-0, Best 4-0-19-0



M. Prabhakar



W. Raman

NEW ZEALAND 2nd innings

T. Franklin lbw b Prabhakar	2
J. Wright c Wassen b Hirwani	74
A. Jones not out	170
M. Crowe lbw b Hirwani	113
M. Greatbatch c Singh	43
b Wassen	43
K. Rutherford c More b Hirwani	8
S. Thomson not out	43
Extras (b, lb, nb)	30
Total (for 5 wickets decl.)	483
Fall of wickets: 7-155 334 396 406	
Bowling: Kapil 31-4-101-0 (1nb), Prabhakar 38-6-118-1 (3nb), Wassen 25-5-80-1 (8nb), Hirwani 46-11-143-3, Raman 19-10-23-0	
INDIA 2nd innings	
W. Raman not out	70
M. Prabhakar not out	63
Extras (9b, 5nb)	14
Total (for no wickets)	149
Bowling: Hadlee 4-1-9-0 (1nb), Morrison 7-1-34-0 (3nb), Thomson 1-1-30-0 (1nb), Snedden 12-1-28-0, Jones 9-1-28-0, K. Rutherford 3-0-10-0, M. Greatbatch 1-1-0-0	
Test drawn.	
New Zealand win 3-Test series 1-0 (two Tests were drawn).	

Pakistan's decline continues: Imran

SYDNEY, Feb 26, (Reuters) — Captain Imran Khan warned today the decline in Pakistan cricket, in evidence for a decade, had accelerated during the tour of Australia.

Imran said the emergence of pace bowler Wasim Akram as world class player was one of the few redeeming features of a tour which exposed Pakistan's fielding and batting failings.

"The lack of fielding competence and the inability to produce a crop of new batsmen have been aspects of our cricket which have worried me for a long time," Imran told journalists.

Despite some successes we have been in decline for 10 years and our deficiencies in fielding and batting just can't be glossed over any more."

Pakistan arrived in Australia claiming to be the second best side in world cricket behind West Indies. But Imran admitted Australia's 1-0 success in the three-Test series and their World Series Cup triumph had earned the home side the number two spot.

"We can't claim to be number two in the world. It annoys and angers me but I can't claim it because of the way we played here," Imran said.

"I do believe we are stagnating and to go ahead we must change. Pakistan needs a good domestic competition like the Sheffield Shield to progress."

"It's just reorganisation — until now we've been winning and no one thought there was a need to change. The silver lining of this tour is that we must change to go ahead."

Hill beats Vedder to retain title

BISMARCK, N.D. Feb 26, (Reuters) — Virgil Hill was far below his best form but dominating throughout to score a unanimous decision over fellow American David Vedder and retain his World Boxing Association light-heavyweight crown yesterday.

"I have a lot to work on," Hill said despite his relatively easy victory before 8,100 of his home town fans.

Hill, making the eighth defence of the title he won in 1987, won nearly every round. The three judges scored the fight 119-111, 119-110 and 119-107.

Afterward, the champion had to ice down a sore left hand, the result of throwing an estimated 500 jabs, many of which landed on the top of the constantly-ducking Vedder's head.

"Hitting him on the head, that's stupid," said Hill, who improved his record to 27-0. Vedder proved to be an elusive opponent and, as expected by the champion's handlers, Hill was somewhat rusty after going only one round in his last fight in October.

"He has an awkward style," Hill said. "He was fairly quick and he could hit. I didn't jump

on him until the 11th round, trying to get him out of there.

"I wasn't ripping my shots but I thought it was a good fight," said Hill who took sporadic hard shots from Vedder but never appeared hurt.

Hill's most impressive rounds were the eighth, when he snapped Vedder's head back with a left jab, and the final two, when he started to display his old form.

Hill battered the challenger constantly in the 11th round and it appeared only the ropes were keeping Vedder up, but the champion was unable to land the knockout blow.

Hill was punishing in the final round and a right and two lefts staggered Vedder, who managed to hang on.

Vedder admitted to being hurt during the final rounds but said he was never concerned about being knocked out.

"He didn't hurt me early. He hurt me late," said Vedder, whose record fell to 12-9-3. "But I wasn't going down."

Colorado Springs, Colorado, a boxer who was scheduled to participate in the US

Amateur Championships collapsed and died while running yesterday.

His identity was being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

After running a lap on the outdoor track at the Olympic training centre, the boxer told a teammate he felt a chest pain. Then, after running three-quarters of another lap, he collapsed, according to Leslie King, the media director of the USA-Amateur Boxing Federation.

Australia's Troy Waters will make the first defence of his Commonwealth light middleweight boxing title against countryman Ronald Doo on March 28, promoters announced today.

The fight between 24-year-old Waters, the youngest of a trio of boxing brothers, and Doo, a 27-year-old southpaw, will take place at the Seagulls Leagues Club in Tweed Heads on the border between New South Wales and Queensland states.

Last October, Waters lost a chance for the world light middleweight title when he was beaten by Italian champion Gianfranco Rosi.

Lamb's ton puts England in command

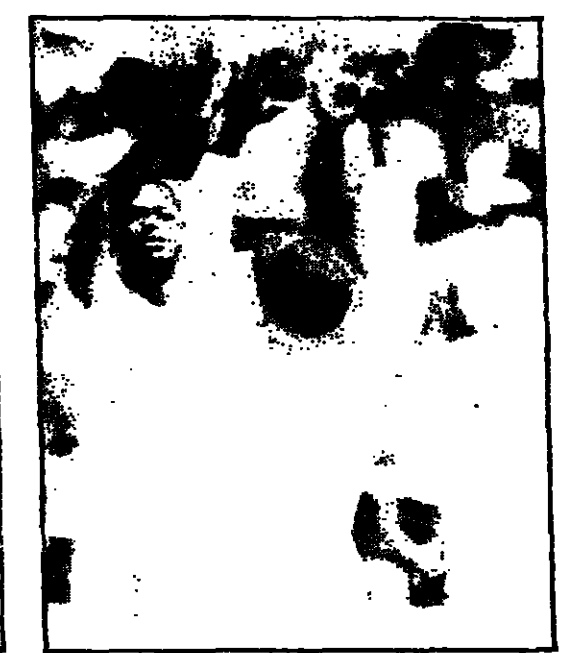
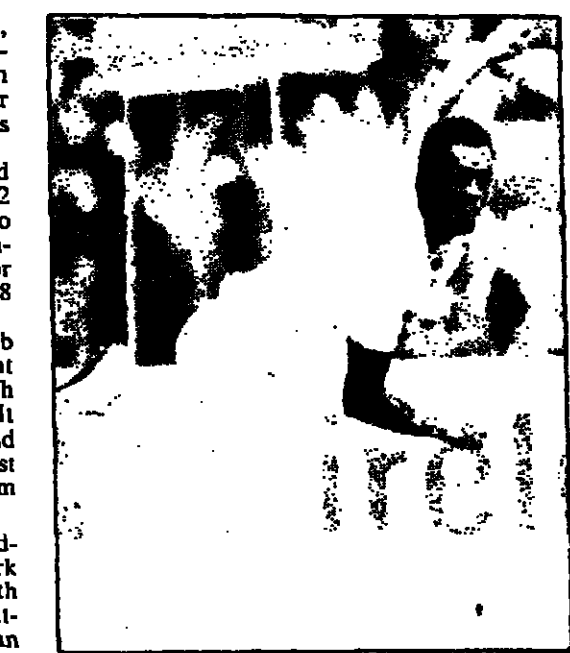
KINGSTON, Jamaica, Feb 26, (Reuters) — Allan Lamb's magnificent maiden century on foreign soil added another glorious chapter to England's first Test fairy tale yesterday.

Lamb tamed the once-fearful West Indies bowling with 132 runs and England, labelled no-hopers before the match, reached a truly unexpected 342 for eight on the second day — 178 ahead on first innings.

South Africa-born Lamb punched the air with delight after reaching three figures with a hooked four off Ian Bishop. It was his 10th Test century and fifth against the mighty West Indies but his first away from England in 46 innings abroad.

Lamb had to reach the landmark twice. Both Sabina Park scoreboards credited him with 100 after he pulled Patrick Patterson for four and the batsman started to celebrate.

But the official scorers knew better and within seconds the figures rolled back to 99. If Lamb felt any anxiety he did not



Walsh (left) bowls to Wayne Larkins and later celebrates the latter's dismissal. (Reuters wirephoto)

show it and boundary number 12 soon put the issue beyond doubt.

He had paced for nearly five hours, faced 170 balls and led his adopted country into a commanding position. Lamb's previous best away score was 83 against Australia on the 1982-83 tour.

Robin Smith added 172 in a fourth wicket stand with Lamb before edging a catch to Carlisle best off Ian Bishop. He made 57 and struck five boundaries in his 216-minute stay.

England, who shot out the hosts for 164 on Saturday, were in the ascendancy at 288 for four when Nasser Hussain arrived to be given a pace examination by Patrick Patterson. Hussain boldly struck three boundaries but on 13 touched an away swinger

from Bishop into the hands of wicketkeeper Jeff Dujon.

England, were on 315 for five and Lamb departed without addition, five short of his Test best made against New Zealand nearly six years ago. He edged a rising ball off Courtney Walsh and Carl Hooper took a low catch at slip.

When David Capel clipped Walsh straight to square leg and Gladstone Small was trapped by Marshall five wickets had gone in 90 minutes for 51 runs.

Lamb's innings lasted 364 minutes, occupied 209 balls and included 16 fours. He gave one chance to Dujon off Walsh when he had made 30 and might have gone in only the day's second over had there been a

third slip to Malcolm Marshall. Earlier, Wayne Larkins made a Test best 46 before he was leg

before to Walsh. He survived for 185 minutes and played a vital role in blunting the West Indies attack in the early stages.

England had not out-scored the West Indies in the first innings of a Caribbean Test since Barbados in 1968.

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WEST INDIES first innings 164 (A. Fraser five for 28)
ENGLAND first innings (overnight 80 for 2)
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Lamb plays a ball from Patterson. (Reuters wirephoto)

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E. Germans plan to sell off secrets

EAST BERLIN, Feb 26, (Reuters) — East Germany plans to sell off the secrets behind its remarkable success in international sport in a bid to save its sport world from bankruptcy.

Battling to find cash to finance the clubs, coaches and sports schools that were given major funding by East Germany's former hardline communist rulers, the state wants to market its scientific, medical and coaching know-how to the West.

The knowledge is widely believed to have played a major role in helping the country of less than 17 million people to win the second highest number of gold medals at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Since the overthrow of the communist old guard late last year, East Germany has moved fast to set up its first sports sponsoring agency, a government-backed company led by the former manager of the state's ice-skating star Katarina Witt.

It has plans to market training techniques, kept secret for years, such as a pressurised underground bunker at Kienbaum near East Berlin where athletes can tune their bodies in simulated altitude conditions of up to 4,000 (13,000 feet).

"There are going to be no more secrets any more about East German sports. That is stupid," the agency's manager Dieter Fuchs told Reuters in an interview.

"Sports has always been well backed up by scientific study here. We need to sell the know-how of places like Kienbaum and the knowledge of our trainers," he said.

"I'm sure there is interest abroad on the former secrets of East German sport. We have already had offers from interested people in the United States."

Fuchs believes the West will be eager to employ East German trainers on coaching camps abroad in the state's leading sports such as athletics, swimming and rowing.

Plans are afoot to rent out places like Kienbaum to foreign athletes. The country's pressure-cooker sports schools, which nurture the talents of six to 18-year-olds, could soon be open to children from the West for the first time.

angir will wash title

Habib scores only goal

Iraq edge Bahrain



Laith Hussain of Iraq (right) tries to dribble past an opponent.

HOLDERS Iraq confirmed their status of favourites to retain their title after edging Bahrain 1-0 in the only match of the Arab Gulf Cup soccer tournament played at Kuwait's Peace and Friendship Stadium yesterday.

Iraq's brilliant right-wing Habib Jaffer, who returned to the squad after a long absence through injury, got the only goal of the match in the 39th minute of the first half.

Iraq, in their first match of the tournament, played an attacking brand of soccer throughout the game, particularly in the first half. In this half they played with five strikers, including veterans captain Hussain Saeed and Ahmad Radhi.

The Bahrainis mainly depended on fast counter-attacks and put more emphasis on their defence in order to contain the Iraqi forward line in order to prevent them from scoring more goals.

Bahrain, however, still had their chances but lacked proper finishing during the last moments of their moves.

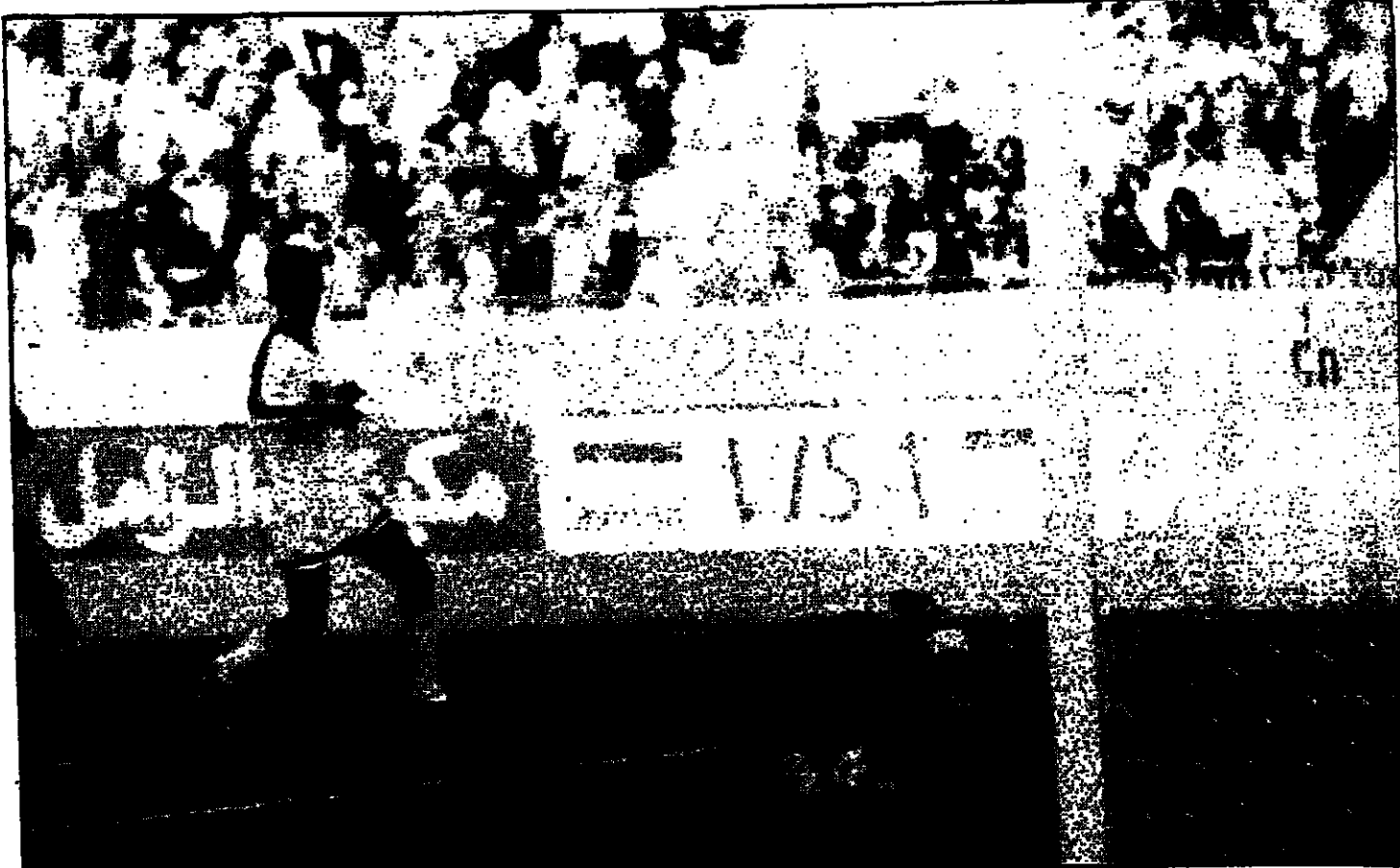
Yesterday's defeat ended Bahrain's chances of lifting the title for the first time. From the three games that they have played so far, Bahrain have managed only one point after a goalless draw with Qatar. In the remaining two matches they take on the much improved Omani side and the United Arab Emirates, who have qualified for the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy.

Tomorrow's match between Iraq and Kuwait will be important for both sides as the latter top the standings at the moment with three points.

The Iraqis launched repeated attacks on the Bahraini goal right from the beginning. They squandered many chances in their haste to get an early goal. They easily reached the Bahraini goal area but always lacked proper finishing. With Ahmad Radhi failing to show his true form, all high passes in the box were simply wasted.

In the second half, the Iraqis slowed down and allowed the Bahrainis to advance, but quickly changed their tactics half way into this half and once again missed a number of chances to score.

One match will be played today between UAE and Qatar. Both have only one point from one game. UAE surprisingly drew with Oman 1-1 and Qatar collected their point from a goalless draw with Bahrain.



The Bahraini goalkeeper makes a save. (Photos by Ahmed Burin)

SPORTS BRIEFS

Bridge

RESULTS of the Barclay's cigarette bridge tournament (3rd week) held at the Regency Palace on Sunday:

- N/S
1. Dona Materny & Adel Bayoumi
2. Rima & Faud Farah
3. Bianca Moussali & Ahmed Tawil
E/W
1. Anil Shah & S. Banerjee
Sharing 2nd: Mamdoh Sabri & Mohammed Elbaz and Ghada & Khalil Sarraf

Results of the Regency Ladies Bridge Club game played on Wednesday:

1. Nida Khalaf & Subendran Osky
2. Rubab Abboushi & Nadia Arabi
3. Khadia Tapa & Camille Sawabini
Results of the Hubana Centre Bridge Club game played on Saturday:

- N/S
1. Mamdoh Sabri & Sheria Bayoumi
2. Nahil Akel & Narendra Shah
3. Bianca Moussali & Ahmed Tawil
E/W

1. Nazareth & Jawahire
2. Matrouk & Kuddoura
3. Mr & Mrs Koksal

Results of Messilah Ladies Bridge Club game played on Monday:

1. Nahil Akel & Lollo Murthwaite
2. Nida Khalaf & Subendran Osky
3. Jamila Akel & Rubab Abboushi

Golf rankings

LONDON, Feb 26, (Reuters): Nick Faldo of Britain and Spain's Seve Ballesteros, ranked second and third in the world, gained a small amount of ground on number one Greg Norman of Australia with their performances in the Desert Classic last week. Norman lost some points for not playing in that event.

E. Germans win

CERVINIA, Italy, Feb 26, (AP): Wolfgang Hoppe led an East German team to victory in yesterday's four-man bobsled race in the next-to-last event of the 1990 World Cup.



An action shot of the match.



Iraq's Hussain Saeed (left) keeps the ball away from a Bahraini.

Brazil favourite for Cup: coach

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb 26, (AP): The coach of Brazil's national soccer team said his squad is the favourite for the 1990 World Cup tournament, but he warned fans about overconfidence in an interview published yesterday.

"Brazil is the favourite. But people don't understand that phrase and think it's a form of scoring opponents," the Rio daily O Globo quoted coach Sebastiao Lazaroni as saying.

Lazaroni, who will head the team for the first time in this summer's tournament in Italy, added that he was worried about overconfidence among both fans and players.

"Now is the time to put the breaks on the 'we already won' attitude I'm hearing from many people on the streets. On top of that, I read all the time that Brazil is the big favourite with bettors. ... It's better to combat this problem before it gets any worse," he said.

Brazil, a three-time world champion, has seen its stock rise since winning the 1989 America Cup tournament, the South American Championship, and especially since it beat powerhouses Italy and Holland

on their own fields in exhibition games late last year.

But the coach said his team would have to work hard during World Cup training if Brazil was to become the first four-time Cup winner.

"I want that championship in Italy. ... But we have to show our potential on the field, not talking off of it," he said.

Lazaroni pointed to West Germany, Argentina, Italy, Holland, England, Yugoslavia and Spain as Brazil's strongest competitors in the World Cup, which gets under way June 8.

"All of those teams have conditions to perform well in Italy and conquer the title," he said.

The president of soccer's worldwide governing body has called for rule changes to accommodate television coverage and boost revenues — for the 1994 World Cup tournament.

Joao Havelange, president of the International Federation of Soccer Associations, known by the French initials Fifa, told the

Rio newspaper O Globo in an interview published yesterday that soccer games should be divided into four quarters of 25 minutes each so TV networks could run more money-generating advertisements.

At present, soccer games consist of two 45-minute halves. The nearly continuous action makes television commercials difficult.

"Soccer is extremely professional and as such should seek all means of increasing revenues. It's important for the growth of the sport," the newspaper quoted Havelange.

Noting that 5,500 journalists had been granted credentials to cover the 1990 World Cup in Italy this summer, the Fifa president asserted that media needs have to be taken into account when considering soccer's future.

However, Havelange cannot alter the rules of the sport on his own. He said the proposed change would have to be presented first to Fifa's rules commission. If the commission agrees with him that dividing games into four quarters was desirable, it will pass the recommendation to Fifa's international board.

Gery, Dekker triumph thrice

LEICESTER, England, Feb 26, (Reuters): Canada's Marcel Gery and Ron Dekker of the Netherlands both won three races each at the final meeting of the World Cup short-course swimming series.

Gery achieved his goal of winning the overall World Cup butterfly title for the eight-round competition with victories in the 50 and 100 metres on Friday and Saturday.

Yesterday, the Commonwealth Games 100 metres butterfly silver medalist took the 50 metres backstroke in 25.74 seconds to beat Martin Harris of Britain, second in 26.51.

Dekker's time of two minutes 12.23 seconds in the 200 metres breaststroke was nearly four and a half seconds ahead of his nearest rival, Britain's Richard Madsen.

The Dutchman was the undisputed breaststroke king, winning the 50 metres on Friday and the 100 metres on Saturday.

Dean and Qatami clinch top prizes

GEOFF DEAN, a computer consultant and Qatami Al Qatami, a Kuwait businessman, won the gross and net Kuwait Closed Golf Championship in Ahmadi over the weekend.

The Ahmadi Golf Club hosted the championship played over two rounds on Thursday and Friday. One hundred golfers representing Ahmadi, Hunting and Equestrian and Bucksand golf clubs turned out to compete for the important annual championship which was played in fine weather that was

marked by strong northerly wind which persisted for the two days of the championship.

The overnight leader was Dean (5) who carded 74 and led Mohammad Siddique (5) by two strokes. Others in contention were Adnan Asaf (5), Abdulreda Hussein, Alan Sinclair, K.H. Chung (6) and C.K. Lin (7). In the second day it was evident after nine holes that the championship was a two-man race.

On the back nine, the lead alternated between Dean and Siddique who birdied the eighteenth to tie for the lead with a score of 152. Both Dean and Siddique contested the championship in a 3 hole play-off.

played over the first, eight and nine holes. After both men had parred the first Dean birdied the eighth while Siddique had a bogie. Then both bogied the ninth ending in Dean winning the championship for the second time, which he had previously won in 1986.

Leading scores and results:

Championship gross: G. Dean (5) Ahmadi: 152 champion; M. Siddique (5) Ahmadi: 152 runner-up; A.R. Hussien (7) Ahmadi: 157; K.H. Chung (6) H&E: 158; C.K. Lin (7) H&E: 159.

Net: Q. Al Qatami (23) H&E: 126 champion; M.L. Chawla (17) Ahmadi: 136 runner-up; H.S. Hill (11) Ahmadi: 138.

Team champions: Alan Sinclair, Ahmadi; Joan Sinclair, Ahmadi; John Plater, Ahmadi; Henry Hill, Ahmadi.

Leading lady player was Joan Sinclair (Ahmadi) who carded 178 for the two rounds.

Ahmadi captain Ray Connor who was responsible for organising this well-run championship hosted with his wife Bernadette the prize giving ceremony and the dinner on Friday evening.



Qatami (left), Dean (centre) and Siddique with their prizes.

Real and Milan seem set to lift titles

LONDON, Feb 26, (Reuters): Real Madrid and European Cup holders AC Milan look poised to win their respective Domestic League titles, the Spaniards for a fifth consecutive season, but their managers are refusing to get carried away with celebrations.

AC Milan underlined their current form with a 4-0 drubbing of Roma in Rome, opening a two-point lead over Napoli with eight games left in the Italian First Division.

Napoli, leaders for most of the campaign, slumped to a 3-1 defeat at Internazionale in Milan and looked lost without their inspirational captain Diego Maradona, absent with back pains.

"At one point in the match I looked up (at the electronic scoreboard) and saw: Roma 0 Milan 2. All the fight went out of me," Napoli's international forward Andrea Carnevale said.

But AC Milan's coach Arrigo Sacchi warned against overconfidence. "No talk of titles yet. When you think you've won that's when disasters start," he said.

Roma striker Rudi Voeller was injured during his side's humiliation and looks likely to miss West Germany's World Cup warm-up against France on Wednesday.

Milan face their midweek Italian Cup final first leg against Juventus in high spirits whereas the Turin side, with Soviet forward Alexander Zavarov injured in training last week, could only



Milan striker Marco van Basten (left) competes for the high ball but is thwarted by Roma goalkeeper Franco Tancredi. (Reuters wirephoto)

manage a 1-1 home draw against Genoa, conceding an own goal by their other Soviet player, defender Sergei Aleinikov.

At the First Division matches in Rome, Turin, Milan and Bari

fans fought pitched battles outside stadiums resulting in injuries, serious in two cases, and three arrests. Roma may be fined after fans, disgusted with their team's home defeat, lit fires in the stands and hurled bottles into goalmouths.

Real Madrid's John Toshack could be forgiven for celebrating already with Real eight points ahead of their city arch-rivals Atletico after a 5-2 home win over bottom club Rayo Vallecano.

But the manager said: "The championship isn't won yet. It's a bit closer but we still need 14 points from 11 games."

Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez, whose 64th-minute goal took his tally as the League's top scorer to 28, was convinced Real would be champions again.

"After (Sunday's) results I think we are sure to do it, although mathematically we could still lose," he said.

Atletico dropped two points in a 2-1 loss at Osasuna and Barcelona dropped one when they were held 2-2 by Real Sociedad on Saturday.

French champions Marseille did some soul-searching after a 2-2 home draw with Monaco yesterday when they had to come back from two goals down against an injury-depleted side lacking six first-team regulars.

It was Marseille's last match before travelling to Bulgaria to face Cska Sofia in a European Cup quarterfinal on March 7. Trainer Gerard Gili said the

prolonged absence of stoppers Karlheinz Forster and Alain Roche forced him to improvise with Brazilian sweeper Mozer and midfielder Franck Sauze. But their attacking instincts had caused gaps at the back.

Marseille are four points behind leaders Bordeaux, who laboured to a 2-1 home win over Toulon, but have a game in hand.

Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven are also looking for a fifth straight League title but injury problems and erratic form — they were held 0-0 at Groningen yesterday — has allowed Ajax, who won 2-1 at Sparta, to creep within a point. But Dutch reporter cast doubt that Ajax can sustain the challenge.

PSV's Brazilian star Romario, the League's top scorer, failed to hit target for a change but compatriot Nando marked his debut for West German side Hamburg with two goals in their 6-0 crushing of Bayer Uerdingen.

Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich are being pressed by Eintracht Frankfurt. A 5-1 victory over Stuttgart saw Eintracht, who stayed off relegation last season, move behind leaders Bayern on goal difference.

In England, Aston Villa were expected to open a five-point lead over Liverpool but visitors Wimbledon shocked them with a 3-0 win and Villa could rue that defeat.

Now Liverpool, only two points adrift, can return to the top if they beat Derby at home tomorrow night.

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